

JULY 10, 1943

Periodical

AMERICA

JUL 8 1943

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MORE CATHOLIC DOCTORS

Daniel M. O'Connell

THE POPE AND ANNUAL WAGE MRS. SANGER FOR MINERS

J. E. Coogan

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POSTWAR DEBTS AND PRICES

Richard E. Mulcahy



**CHESTER DAVIS
RESIGNS**

**INFLATION
AND WAR**

**POLITICS
IN EXILE**

**SPY
MARKET**

**MILWAUKEE'S
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A CATHOLIC REVIEW OF THE WEEK

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Associate Editors: HAROLD C. GARDINER, J. GERARD MEARS,
BENJAMIN L. MASSE, W. EUGENE SHIELDS, CHARLES KEENAN.

Contributing Editors:

WILFRID PARSONS, WILLIAM A. DONAGHY.

Editorial Office: 329 W. 108TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY 25.

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AMERICA

A CATHOLIC REVIEW OF THE WEEK

JULY 10, 1943

THIS WEEK

COMMENT ON THE WEEK.....	365
Underscorings.....	367
The Nation at War.....Col. Conrad H. Lanza	368
Washington Front.....Charles Lucey	368

ARTICLES

Prices Must Rise to Carry Our Postwar	
National Debt.....Richard E. Mulcahy	369
More Catholic Medical	
Men.....Daniel M. O'Connell	371
Can the Coal Industry Support an	
Annual Wage?.....H. C. McGinnis	373
Many Vikings Are Stranded Without the	
Bark of Peter.....Frank H. Sampson	375
"What Is the Pope Looking At?"...J. E. Coogan	377

EDITORIALS..... 378

What's the Matter? ... General Giraud's Visit ...	
Another Cartel ... We Gag at the Digest ...	
Why the Church Is Secure.	

LITERATURE AND ARTS..... 381

Poets' Round Table—II.....Arthur MacGillivray	
---	--

POETRY..... 383

Gratuity.....Daniel Sargent	
No Other Sound.....Eileen Surles	
A Piggy Back.....Joseph Dever	
Cranwell Sunset.....Francis Sweeney	
There Will Be Melody....Anna-Margaret Record	
Aprilian Thing.....Robert Clairmont	

BOOKS.....REVIEWED BY 384

Soviet Russia's Foreign Policy:	
1939-1942.....Robert C. Hartnett	
They Also Ran.....John D. Boyd	
Years of Blindness.....Elbridge Colby	

MUSIC..... THEATRE.....FILMS 388

CORRESPONDENCE..... PARADE 391

WHO'S WHO

RICHARD E. MULCAHY continues his analysis of our post-war economic hazards—begun in the issue of June 19—this time with special consideration of the mounting debt and the specific dangers of inflation and deflation. . . . REV. DANIEL M. O'CONNELL, formerly Director General of Jesuit Education in America, examines the failures and successes in recent examinations of medical students, with relation to the present acute shortage of doctors. . . . H. C. MCGINNIS, who lives in Pennsylvania and has had opportunity to know the local miners and their problems, presents the various plans proposed for an ever-normal miners' paycheck. . . . FRANK H. SAMPSON, graduate of the Swedish Lutheran Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., who was converted to the Catholic Faith in 1922, reviews the great Scandinavian field for Catholic mission work in this country. . . . REV. J. E. COOGAN, S.J., contributes a biographical study of the tireless Margaret Sanger. For the past ten years Father Coogan has been a teacher of sociology, and has been a frequent contributor to religious journals. . . . Since FATHER PARSONS expects to be absent from Washington until September, the *Washington Front* during this period will be manned by CHARLES LUCEY, well known press correspondent and commentator on national affairs. . . . ARTHUR MACGILLIVRAY, pursuing his theological studies at Weston College, Weston, Mass., concludes his round-up of the poets' evaluation of their own art. The first causerie was in our May 1 issue. NEXT WEEK. Father Vincent Donovan, O.P., will discuss, from his own personal acquaintance, the vigorous ideas and inspiring character of his fellow Dominican, the late Father Vincent McNabb.

COMMENT ON THE WEEK

Chester Davis Resigns. One of the loudest political thunderclaps that came at the close of Washington's eighteen-day heat wave announced the resignation of Chester C. Davis from the office of War Food Administrator. Mr. Davis had held this position but three months, during which time Congress' turbulent debate developed concerning agricultural subsidies. Mr. Davis claimed his position was untenable "while the authority, not only over broad food policy but day-to-day actions, is being exercised elsewhere." He was likewise opposed to the President's policy on subsidies. Judge Marvin Jones, designated as Mr. Davis's successor, declares his hopeful readiness to work under the conditions that irked Mr. Davis. With Mr. Davis out, however, a chill appears to have come over Congressional plans to create a food "czar." Representative Jesse P. Wolcott, of Michigan, is reported as saying: "The whole scheme of transferring OPA powers to the War Food Administration was predicated upon confidence in Chester Davis." Will anything like that enthusiasm be felt for giving wide authority to Mr. Jones? In the meanwhile, a still further doubt as to the practicability of the much-advertised food-"czar" scheme is ascribed—of all persons—to Bernard Baruch, Advocate Number One of wartime efficiency organization. Mr. Baruch is quoted as definitely refusing to believe any scheme to be workable which places in the hands of a food administrator the determining of prices, rations and other matters of wider import.

Wallace vs. Jones. A long-smoldering quarrel between the Board of Economic Warfare and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation came to a shattering climax when Vice President Wallace publicly accused Jesse Jones of obstructing BEW's attempts to acquire stockpiles of strategic drugs and materials. Mr. Jones replied heatedly that the charges were spawned by "malice" and vitiated by "misstatements." A subsequent conference between the protagonists, called by James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, to resolve the controversy, failed of its purpose, with the result that, at the week's end, the sensational spat continued to wag Washington tongues and to disedify the country. It is not surprising that strong-willed, highly talented men, equally determined on prosecuting their respective programs, equally devoted to the war effort, and equally affected by the oppressive summer heat of Washington and the strain of important work, should occasionally have sharp differences of opinion. What is surprising, and discouraging, is that the President's directive that inter-agency quarrels be settled privately has been so flagrantly ignored. Mr. Wallace may have been under very great provocation. Obviously, he thought he was. Nevertheless, he ought to have carried his

complaint to Mr. Byrnes, not to the front pages of the nation's press.

Inflation and War. Uncontrolled inflation in the course of total war is equivalent to a crushing defeat in a major campaign. It might even result in the loss of the war. Any interruption in the steady flow of food and munitions to the fighting fronts cripples at once the striking power of a modern army and weakens its will to resist. The day is gone when a fighting force can compensate by acts of individual bravery or brilliant strategy for a lack of tanks and planes and guns, of bombs and shells and food and drugs. To an unprecedented extent, this war is a battle of production lines—and the efficiency of the production line largely depends on a soundly functioning domestic economy. It depends, therefore, on controlling the cost of living, since sharply rising prices for the necessities of life create industrial unrest and weaken civilian morale. Inflation in time of war is an enemy army striking directly at the home front.

The Crisis Is Here. All this would seem to be elementary. From the beginning of the defense effort in 1940, but more especially since the Japanese aggression in December, 1941, the Government has struggled to control prices in a booming war economy. It has, with the single exception of food prices, been remarkably successful. Six months ago it appeared, indeed, that the battle to stop the price spiral had been won. Now so swiftly have the fortunes of war changed that the anti-inflationary forces are fighting, and losing, a last-ditch campaign against a visibly shrinking dollar. While a number of causes have contributed to this setback, the chief one seems to be that certain well organized groups in the country either do not believe that it is possible to prevent inflation in wartime, or, if it is possible, that it is desirable to do so. After a great deal of effort, they have finally succeeded in persuading a majority in both Houses of Congress to adopt their view. The press announced on June 29 that Senate and House conferees have agreed on a bill which will effectively destroy the Administration's current attempt to roll back food prices by a limited use of subsidies. This means that labor will now press to destroy the "Little Steel" formula and the whole wage stabilization program. The vicious race between living costs and wages, between wages and farm prices, is about to begin. For this disaster, the Congress cannot escape a large part of the blame.

Kindergarten Ph.D.'s. Education, even in its outward forms and accoutrements, means progression. When we saw a news-picture lately, depicting a group of "graduating" kindergarten children, all

tyked out in full academic caps and gowns, it struck us here was something worth pondering. So, we pondered. The picture was unimportant enough, we suppose, but it was symptomatic. It was a portent of the breaking down of consecrated forms. Formalism is bad, but a certain ritual, a certain amount of consecrated tradition is necessary for true education. When all the lines of delimitation are erased; when the high schools imitate the colleges, then we have the confused picture of high-school students doing research work, and the university students learning to spell. It may not take very long, in the confusion, before all kindergartners graduate in cap and gown, and the research men start cutting out paper dolls. With our Catholic instincts for hierarchy, for ordered degree, there is little worry that we will drift into this educational dead level. But in other ways we take on this dubious leavening; not a few young girls of eight or ten, in our acquaintance, visit mother's beauty parlor regularly. Young girls are young girls, not women; kindergarten students are that, not college graduates. Men are men and women are women. Things are what they are; it is great wisdom not to shake well before using.

Politics in Exile. From London comes an item from correspondent Raymond Daniell. The smaller Allied nations, it seems, are casting jealous eyes on their big brothers—the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China. The little fellows fear that the Big Four will control the distribution of food in Holland, Belgium and the rest. The idea of pooling food does not appeal to these Governments, although they themselves will be among the beneficiaries. It looks as if the political prestige of the Governments-in-Exile is at stake in their homelands. They will have to learn to think in the terms C. J. Hambro of Norway has adopted. He said publicly, last year, that in international cooperation the status of small nations like his own would not be the same as that of the largest nations. Some Governments-in-Exile want to handle their own relief problem, because they happen to have the money to buy food. But this feeling will not encourage cooperative attitudes on the part of the larger nations toward problems of need which the smaller nations are not able to meet. Small nations can cause great disturbances if they prove unpromising.

Teachers Playing Hookey. According to the N.E.A. officials meeting at Indianapolis, over 100,000 teachers have turned their backs on the blackboards of learning to seek in war-work higher marks in earning. In some States, such as Maine, Georgia and Kansas, "hookeyism" among teachers has reduced their number by one-third. Over half of the teachers in Kansas receive less than \$1,200 annually. To remedy this serious situation the N.E.A. wants the Senate to pass the \$300,000,000 Federal-aid bill. Msgr. Ready of the N.C.W.C. wrote in opposition to this bill on the ground that it excludes private schools from its benefits and exploits the war-emergency to further the perennial

N.E.A. policy of increasing Federal influence over American education. From another angle, this new demand underlines the immense professional contribution of Catholic teachers in Catholic schools. In elementary and secondary education, 81,000 of them have been "holding the line." The vast majority are priests and Religious whose lives are dedicated to education for spiritual motives. They will not desert their flock now or ever. If they did, the N.E.A. would have to ask for \$600,000,000 instead of half that sum. Could the public-school system cope with 2,394,000 more students? With "minority rights" on everybody's lips, have you heard one word about the injustice of forcing Catholics to pay for two educations in order to get the only one they can in conscience accept? This is a supreme example of social patience.

Spy Market. Espionage rose a few points on the spy market last week, only to nose-dive into the waiting hands of the F.B.I. Ernest Frederick Lehmitz, model air-raid warden and Victory gardener of Tomkinsville, Staten Island, was identified as the one whose letters the British had picked up in Bermuda. He was sending valuable information on convoys to his Nazi masters via agents in neutral European countries. He typed letters on innocuous subjects and wrote his spy messages between the lines in invisible ink. He acquired his information by "pumping" servicemen to whom he rented quarters, or servicemen and war-workers whom he overheard in the restaurant where he worked. A co-operator, Edwin Harry De Spretter, was picked up a day later. Both have pleaded guilty. "Button your mouth" and "keep sober" are the lessons these spies teach anew to servicemen on leave and war-workers everywhere. Both these enemy agents were clever and well trained. They pieced together useful information from fragmentary remarks.

Constitution and Treason. In Chicago the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the conviction for treason of the six inhabitants who were found guilty last fall of giving "aid and comfort to the enemy" by helping out Herbert Haupt. Haupt was one of the eight Nazi saboteurs who were picked up and convicted a year ago. The ground of reversal is that the defendants were not given separate trials and that statements were taken before improper officials. The charge of the trial judge was criticized for not having made clear to the jury the law of our Constitution requiring that two witnesses testify in open court to overt acts of treason. A re-trial, a re-hearing before the Appeals Court, or a review by the Supreme Court are possibilities open to J. Albert Woll, United States District Attorney. This case proves again, as did the reversal of the Gobitis decision against the Jehovah's Witnesses recently, that America is not only the arsenal of democracy but the citadel of freedom and of the rule of law.

Milwaukee's War. Citizens of Wisconsin's largest city last March formed a Committee on Industrial Absenteeism. The purpose of this group was to in-

investigate the extent and causes of absenteeism in Milwaukee, and to propose remedies. Long known for their city's efficient municipal government, Milwaukee's civic leaders were determined to put their city in the front rank as a center of war industry with a low rate of industrial absenteeism. The studies were undertaken by a bureau in the College of Business Administration of Marquette University. The first report covers the first quarter of 1943, with sixty-four firms supplying data. The number of days lost per worker averaged 3.35 in these three months. The lowest average reported by any company was .57 per cent, the highest nearly 13 per cent of man-hours scheduled. This wide variance suggests inquiry into the reasons for it. The second report covers the week of May 10-15, with forty-one firms supplying data. It takes up the causes of absenteeism. Nearly half the absence from work in this week was laid down to sickness. "Unknown causes" accounted for about one-quarter. Most of the rest was "with permission," which was given in such cases as illness in the family, marriages, funerals, visits to physicians, dentists, opticians, trips by young wives to visit husbands in the service or to spend time with them (or fiancés) on furlough, and for appearances in court. Other interesting data showed that women workers were absent for the same reasons but over twice as often as men, that office-workers were absent only half as much as industrial workers, that in a six-day week one-fifth of the absenteeism fell on Monday, and that the increase of absenteeism after pay-day in half the firms studied was partly offset by a decrease in absenteeism after pay-day in the other half. Milwaukee is to be congratulated on tackling this problem scientifically. We look forward to future reports.

Currency Proposals. The clearest explanation we have yet seen of the Keynes and White proposals for postwar currency stabilization appears in the current issue of *Harper's* magazine. The author of the article, Peter F. Drucker, begins in true scholastic fashion by inquiring into the state of the question. "What," he asks, "are the concrete problems which the traditional nineteenth-century system failed to master and which these plans set out to solve?" And he answers that they are three: 1) the difficulty of preserving at the same time a stable domestic economy and a stable exchange rate; 2) the problem of avoiding a spread of economic nationalism consequent on the worldwide march of industrialism; 3) the creation of an organization in which conflicting economic systems can participate. Mr. Drucker sees in the White (American) Plan an attempt to return to the substance, if not to the form, of the nineteenth-century system. The Keynes (British) Plan he holds to be a radical departure from that system. On monetary techniques depend such crucial questions as the future of international trade, the relative position of this country and Britain in the postwar world, the part that private enterprise will play in foreign trade. Mr. Drucker's article is an enlightening contribution.

UNDERSCORINGS

INFLATIONARY profits and wages, harmful to society and even to those who are temporary beneficiaries, were condemned by Monsignor Luigi G. Ligutti, Executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. He was speaking at the Institute for Sisters Teaching Rural School, at St. Louis U., June 21-July 9. Selfishness in any group—farmers, industrialists, laborites—will cause untold harm to our nation, he declared.

► An estimated 80,000 people attended the Catechetical Congress at Caracas, Venezuela, in mid-June. Heading the religious dignitaries were Most Rev. Giuseppe Misuraca, Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Martinez of Mexico, Archbishop Betancourt of Havana, Archbishop Pittini of Santo Domingo and Archbishop Ryan of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

► Apostolic Incident: The station is a mission outpost near Kweilin, China. It is staffed by Austrian priests cut off from their country and all possible revenue. Yet the mission is supported by American soldiers, most of them Catholics, stationed nearby.

► Acclaimed by the secular and religious press alike as a great American representative, Archbishop Spellman continues his world tour. From the heart of Africa he telegraphed to Monsignor McDonnell, National Director of the Propagation of the Faith, that he had found missionary activity intense despite the war.

► Gentle voices, like that of Hilton's Mr. Chips, are still speaking vital messages under the enveloping clamor of war. The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, for example, is conducting a summer session, July 1-August 11, in which one can take courses in "History of Art," "Appreciation of Music," "Philosophy and its Relation to Modern Art."

► Some idea of the decimation of the German clergy may be gathered from official figures released on the one Archdiocese of Freiburg which, up to May 1, had lost eighteen priests in the war and seventy-eight seminarians.

► Trujillo in Northern Peru will be the scene of the Third National Peruvian Eucharistic Congress, October 27-31. In preparation for the Congress, the Hierarchy of Peru has issued a joint Pastoral pleading for "a renewal of faith, a restoration of Christian customs, and a happy return to the paternal home by prodigal sons."

► The Constitution of Paraguay, "although it respects the freedom of all cults, professes to be Catholic, Apostolic, Roman," President Morínigo of Paraguay recently declared. He was speaking at a luncheon after attending Mass at St. Patrick's with an official group of fifteen. At the Mass itself, Bishop O'Hara welcomed the President in Spanish, in the presence of Bishop Donahue and Bishop McIntyre, Auxiliaries of New York.

► *Grande Paradiso*, soaring up to a height of 13,000 feet, is the loftiest of the Italian Alps. High on its peak, in September, the Italian Association of Catholic Youth will erect a huge cross of iron to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Association and to stand as a memorial to its 1,600 war dead.

THE NATION AT WAR

NO major war movements have occurred during the week ending June 28. The principal activity has been the continuing bombing of Germany, and particularly of the Ruhr. This is an area about forty miles long and broad. It has been covered with industrial plants of enormous size, with coal mines, and with large cities. It has been the heart of the German steel industry.

This enormous and valuable area has now been almost entirely bombed to destruction. Little remains. Air photographs show that such thorough destruction has never before been inflicted. This much the Allies are sure of. What isn't known is how much German industrial production has been reduced. For Germany has been removing its war plants to other places.

General Arnold, Chief of our Air Forces, in his speech to the graduating class at West Point on June 1, stated that the bombing of Germany was intended so to disrupt its economic life as to force a surrender. In this way, it was hoped that hundreds of thousands of lives would be saved. This is a better way than an invasion—a less costly way.

The idea of winning the war without invading Germany has been proposed since 1939. At that time it was believed that Germany had so little food and gasoline that a blockade would force her to submit within a matter of months. Prior to Pearl Harbor many believed that if oil and scrap-iron were cut off from Japan, she would soon be unable to continue the war. Neither plan has worked.

Bombing Germany out of the war is another effort to win without serious fighting. Many distinguished men believe as General Arnold does, and everybody hopes he is right. However, Mr. Churchill, in his address to our Congress in May, stated that while he thought the bombing of Germany was well worth trying, he wasn't sure as to the result. And on June 21, Russia issued a special communiqué appealing for a second front, as absolutely necessary if victory is to be ours. She doesn't believe bombing alone will suffice.

War will tell who is right.

Moscow reports that the Ukraine is expected to produce this year a bumper crop. There was a fair amount of snow last winter, good rains in the spring, fine weather during June. This crop goes to Germany, if she manages to hold on to the Ukraine, which was the source of sixty per cent of Russian food. The Russians recaptured Caucasia, which was good farm land, at the beginning of this year. But the farms had been destroyed, the animals were gone, the tools and machinery destroyed.

The best Russia can do is to recondition Caucasia, with a view to producing something next year. In the meantime Russia is short of food.

So is China, in places desperately so. Both of our great allies are looking to us to help solve this difficult problem. We are shipping food to Russia; but to ship anything much to China, we must first open a route. And this is going to be a hard task, which will, however, probably be soon undertaken.

COL. CONRAD H. LANZA

WASHINGTON FRONT

AS Washington emerged from the hottest June in its history, the man for whom it probably had been hotter than for all others sat, in soft white shirt and polka-dot bow tie, facing a hundred correspondents.

The Congress had smothered his veto of the Smith-Connally anti-strike bill. It had rolled back his food-subsidies program to the White House door. It was bent on chastising the Office of Price Administration, Office of War Information and other government agencies. His own Vice-President was publicly censuring his own Secretary of Commerce. Race riots and a coal strike were just behind.

For Franklin Roosevelt, it must have been the most difficult month in ten years as President of the United States. But he remained a defiant man. He would admit no retreat. He asked a questioner if he did not think the war was going pretty well on the home front.

Thus ended June in Washington.

Many views were being taken of the revolt in a Congress which in earlier days was eating out of the President's hand. One was that it reflected all the little restraints and annoyances war has brought to the home front—protests from constituents irked by food shortages and gasoline rationing and by reports of bickering and disunity in Washington itself.

Another was that something much more fundamental had happened—that there had come one of those times when a strong Executive, a dominant and confident figure for years, was being checked now by a legislative branch insistent on reclaiming its equal powers in the government.

Those who supported this view instanced resentment at the increased use of executive orders to do what many believed should have been done by enacting law, failure of the President to take Congress more into his confidence, a growing conviction that administration of the war on the home front might not be as perfect as some partisans of the Executive believed.

And so, on Capitol Hill, where once most men believed Franklin Roosevelt could do no wrong, many now believed, or so it seemed, that Franklin Roosevelt could do no right. Gone were the echoes of the Forgotten Man and those phrases which rang through a nation in other years. The pendulum seemed to have swung from one extreme to another.

But the danger of earlier extremes was the danger of later extremes—a reluctance to weigh and differentiate, to accept good and reject bad. It was there to be seen in legislating on the anti-strike act, "the handling of subsidies," the OWI appropriation and elsewhere. Blank-check approval had been replaced by almost total opposition.

Broiling temperatures made tempers short, certainly. The first good recess in three years may help.

CHARLES LUCEY

PRICES MUST RISE TO CARRY OUR POSTWAR NATIONAL DEBT

RICHARD E. MULCAHY

PREWAR prices must not be seen again in the postwar world, if our economic system is to survive. In the past, after every major war with its soaring prices, the price level has, in a short time, returned to "normal." But this cannot happen this time. In a recent article we wrote of the danger of inflation in the immediate postwar period. Such inflation would inflict a hardship on every citizen, particularly the thousands of small savers, the fixed-income receivers and the life-insurance holders. Inflation, however, is not the only postwar danger; deflation would threaten the stability of our entire economy.

It is a common saying of economists that the economic system will work at any price level, and that the only difficulty is the transition from one level to another. This is true for normal situations. But when the economy is loaded with a debt reckoned in hundreds of billions of dollars, any old price level will not do. Prices must be sustained, or the system stops functioning.

What the debt of the National Government will be at the close of the war no one knows. It all depends on when the war ends, how much we spend to wage the war, and how much of the bill we pay via taxes. President Roosevelt, in his budget message to Congress, stated that by June 30, 1944, it will be about \$210,000,000,000. With war bills perhaps continuing into 1945, and with the reconstruction bill still to come, \$300,000,000,000 looks like a moderate estimate for the postwar debt.

How reckon the burden of such a debt? It is not a question of the real cost, for that is reckoned in materials and labor power which will already have been used up. Nor is it a question of the cost of repaying the debt, as it is not absolutely necessary ever to repay it. The British Government floats its bonds in the form of perpetual "consols" that carry no maturity date. The only real burden that cannot be easily avoided is the interest charge.

This interest burden might be avoided by continual borrowing to meet the interest. But this is only a postponement of the evil day, and aggravates the situation. Or it might be rendered meaningless, because the people who pay the taxes for the interest are the same persons who receive the interest as bondholders. Such a policy, however, is very unlikely to be adopted. For example, one-half of the national debt is held by the banks, who are continuing to absorb one-half of the current issues. This tax-the-bondholder policy would thus require

a special high tax on the banking system—which is not very probable.

Moreover, such a tax would defeat its purpose, unless the bondholder is taxed in his very capacity as bondholder. But this would merely reduce the rate of interest received, and would cause the sale of the bonds. On the other hand, if the tax falls on the bondholder in another capacity, say, as a manufacturer of stoves, it will have the same adverse effect on his investment decisions that a tax for any other purpose would have. Should the tax be too burdensome, the bondholder-manufacturer will probably give up making stoves and retire on his bond income.

Thus, the debt burden can be said to be the tax friction that is created by levying taxes on the nation's annual income to pay the interest. Now this burden is not a fixed burden. It is true that the interest charge is a fixed obligation of the Government, which remains the same in dollar-terms each year that the debt or the rate of interest does not change. But the tax friction varies as the national income varies. Calculated on a probable basis of two-and-a-half per cent, the interest bill on \$300,000,000,000 will be \$7,500,000,000 annually. This means that, if the national income is \$75,000,000,000, one dollar out of every ten must be taxed to pay the interest. If the national income is \$100,000,000,000, one dollar out of every thirteen dollars and thirty-three cents goes to the bondholders. And, if the nation's income is \$50,000,000,000, the bondholder's cut is one dollar out of every six dollars and sixty-six cents. So the tax friction—the real burden of the debt—varies with the national income.

And the national income certainly varies. In the 'thirties, the nation's income ranged from a low, in 1932, of about \$40,000,000,000, to a high, in 1937, of around \$75,000,000,000. What determines these variations? The income of the nation in dollar-terms depends on the amount of goods and services produced, and on the price of those goods and services. Suppose 10,000,000,000 units of goods and services are produced in a given year, and the average price (which is what economists mean when they speak of the price level) is \$10, then the national income is said to be \$100,000,000,000. Let there be a twenty-five per cent drop in the price level, and even though the same amount of goods and services is produced, the national income will decline to \$75,000,000,000. When the nation's in-

come is \$100,000,000,000, 750,000,000 units of goods and services are transferred to the bondholders. With the income at \$75,000,000,000, 1,000,000,000 units of the production must be transferred. It is very important to our taxpayers and producers what the price level will be in the postwar era.

Another complicating factor is that taxes are not levied only to raise money for interest payments. Before the war, the ordinary running expenses of the National Government, and the requirements of State and local governments, were practically \$15,000,000,000 a year. And this was at prewar prices. However, because many of these costs are quite "sticky," being set by contracts and statutes, they will probably not rise as much as the national income. On the other hand, being "sticky" also on the downside, the burden of these governmental expenses would increase as the price level and the national income fell.

Nor is this all. Any sharp decline in prices is usually considered unfavorable to business, for it dampens entrepreneurial expectations. Then not only the average price is lower, but the number of units of goods and services produced declines. (Of course, there are many other causes of a decline in production.) Thus a drop of the price level from an average price of ten to seven-and-a-half may cause production to fall from 10,000,000,000 units to 7,000,000,000 units. Then the national income (7,000,000,000 units at \$7.50 per unit) would be only \$52,500,000,000. And one dollar out of every seven goes to the bondholders.

No theoretical discussion, however, can bring home to us how important it is, in the face of a deadweight war debt, to sustain prices, as can the sad story of the European belligerents after World War I. The internal national debts were huge. And though, in relation to the national income, the burden of the debt was relatively light compared to what it will be for the present belligerents—including the United States—yet the debt question was one of the fundamental economic problems that was still unsolved even twenty years after the Armistice. Most of the nations, by necessity, experienced inflation, which should have eased the debt burden. But because the inflation was uncontrolled, the same economic process that reduced the burden of the war debts wiped out the savings of citizens and the working capital of business firms, and created new debts which left the problem unsolved. Great Britain, on the other hand, adopted the opposite policy—deflation. In 1925, by restoring the gold standard with sterling at its prewar parity, she had to deflate prices. She succeeded; but only at the cost of declining business, and millions of unemployed and a General Strike.

One of the few leading statemen of Britain who seems to have recognized the difficulty is Lord Bradbury. In dissenting to the Macmillan Report, he explained the whole problem:

The burden of unproductive debt is partly that of the deadweight debt arising out of the War. . . . It is no doubt true that the payment of the interest on internal debt and allowances to unemployed workmen are merely "a transfer of incomes within the country," but (except in so far as they are met by

the taxation of the rentier or the unemployed workman himself) it is a transfer from the producer to the non-producer. If it goes far enough it will leave the producer with no motive to produce and, in the end, cease perforce, because there will be nothing to transfer. . . . If this is a true diagnosis, it appears to me that the malady is too deep-seated to be removed by any manipulation of currency or credit. True, if it were possible to raise the price level, the burden of debt would be decreased.

In 1935 the popular authority on international finance, Paul Einzig, wrote a book that should be on the "must" list of every political leader today. In this book, *World Finance 1914-1935*, Mr. Einzig insisted that the fundamental cause of the economic troubles since World War I was the failure to realize that the increased burden of the national debts required a higher price level.

For the coming postwar period, then, the important question is: How can prices and production be kept at a fairly high level? The only direct support of prices is through price controls. Instead of the price-ceilings which we have now (and will need also in the immediate postwar period), we will need price-bottoms to keep prices from falling. This is a necessary evil, which is neither simple nor ever completely effective, but it probably must be attempted.

To sustain production will be even more difficult. The two standard methods are a cheap-money policy and deficit financing. Cheap money is, however, only a necessary background for business stimulation; it is not a cause. Besides cheap money, a business man looks for a favorable market before he will make the investment necessary to expand production. And the only effective way that we have found to artificially stimulate a market is by deficit financing. But this is the chief weakness. Deficit financing increases the national debt—one of the sources of the maladjustment. Also, Congress may be rather reluctant to authorize Government expenditures that will increase the national debt, already standing on the books at the \$300,000,000,000-figure. If, in the future, such a situation should arise that Congress has to decide the dilemma between increasing an already staggering debt or allowing the productive plant of our economy to run at less than full employment, we hope that the Congressmen of the future will choose to increase the debt. For, if handled properly, deficit spending should increase the national income more rapidly than it increases the interest burden of the debt. But if the other horn of the dilemma is chosen, and the economic system is permitted to slow down, the debt that already exists will press more heavily than ever on the shoulders of the nation's producers. The system might just come to a stop.

And there is one thing that we can do now: pay currently for as much of the war bill as is practical out of taxes; thus keeping the national debt below the \$300,000,000,000 mark. President Roosevelt appears to be aware of the several advantages of this policy—and of the danger of inflation now and in the immediate postwar period—for he has asked Congress to levy additional taxes this year. Will Congress rise to the occasion?

MORE CATHOLIC MEDICAL MEN

DANIEL M. O'CONNELL, S.J.

ABOUT students in medical schools and in pre-medical courses, our Government at war has no doubt. The completion of their studies and other training is essential to the successful outcome of our military efforts. Skill in the use of guns, ships, planes, tanks, etc., needs to be underwritten by an assurance of health for the wielders of these weapons. Accordingly, there is an exemption from immediate military duty for these students as long as they are satisfactorily advancing to the goal of a licensed doctor of medicine, capable of giving service to their fellow citizens, military or civil. That this plan is not essentially new, but only so in certain details, is evident from the address which Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes made to the medical students of Harvard University in the dark days of 1861, in which he declared:

... he who labors for the general good at home is an uniformed soldier in the same holy cause with those who bear arms or minister at the side of the ambulance and in the camp hospital.

Since the imperiled times of which Dr. Holmes spoke, the military doctor has become uniformed as a matter of course. But it is something new when we speak, with no irreverence, of the civilian doctor as being rationed. In the term there is a deep compliment to the noble profession to which we all, especially in times of war or pestilence, owe so much. And it is due to their patriotism in enlisting in such large numbers as members of our armed forces that the civilian population is restricted in its approach to medical skill. Naturally there has followed an unequal distribution of doctors on the home front. In a lesser degree it prevailed in times of peace. A perfect distribution of doctors geographically would be the dream of the utopians or planners of the totalitarian State. But even the latter, in the matter of a minimum of one doctor for every 1,500 persons, have not been successful. "Neither the Germans nor the Russians seem to have solved the problem," as the *Journal of the American Medical Association* recently put it.

Nevertheless, we must face the fact that there are areas in our country where there is a real scarcity of essential medical care, a threat to those districts as well as to the rest of the country in case of pestilence. As to the causes of the scarcity, beyond the ordinary ones of peaceful times, the first is the generous enlistment in the military services noted above. Then come the shiftings of hundreds of thousands to new locations of war work; difficulties of transporting doctors and patients, the crowding of once centrally located hospitals, etc.

Accordingly, any strengthening of the medical line this year—and possibly for some years longer—is a real contribution to winning the war and mak-

ing the peace. It is cheering then to learn that more new doctors were licensed by our States in 1942 than in 1941. Specifically, 5,981 was the record for 1942, compared to 5,712 for 1941. The former figures have just been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. These 269 more doctors may not seem a large number. Yet in their making, as a rule, there are required four years of study in a medical college, preceded by at least two years of collegiate pre-medical subjects and, usually, a year of internship following graduation. It is not captious, I hope, to say that we should not be satisfied. In 1937 we received 6,424 new doctors, 443 above the record of 1942, an all-time high.

Naturally, we wish to get closer to that number. Let us look at the record of examinations for 1942 and see if there is such a possibility. In 1942, some 7,180 graduates of medical schools took examinations before the various State boards. Of these, 1,104 failed and 6,076 passed. This is a sad picture of failures. It presents an educational problem for any time. In our present state of global war, it is tragic. What are its circumstances, if not its causes? Before considering them, let me add, first, that seventy-five of those who passed did not take out State licenses. The time for examinations differed with the time for securing a license, so presumably these seventy-five, without waiting, were inducted into service. The assurance has been given that hereafter the examining schedules for the current year will correspond to the dates of graduation, according to the accelerated programs of the medical schools. Second, all but three of our medical schools have condensed their four years of instruction into three full years with practically no vacations granted, thus increasing the number of new doctors.

How explain the educational debacle of 15.4 per cent failures among the 1942 applicants, the 1,104 medical graduates who might be ministering at this moment to serviceman or to civilian? The failure himself will blame the teacher and the school. That has been human nature's easiest way out through the centuries. Are there essential differences among our medical schools? We know that the American Medical Association thinks so, and its *Journal* groups the examinees as coming from its own "approved" medical schools or from "unapproved" (by the same AMA) medical schools in the United States. Educational executives in the USA shudder at the mention of "unapproved" schools. This is the prestige or power of such standardizing agencies as the American Medical Association. However, when we look at the record of 1942 medical failures, it must be admitted that there is a vast academic difference in results.

Two hundred twenty-three, or 50.7 per cent of the students from these "unapproved" schools, failed to pass before the various State boards during 1942, while, by violent contrast, only 2.4 per cent from the approved schools were failures. The conclusion seems inescapable that something is decidedly wrong in the first group. No doubt, the fundamental reason for the situation is financial inability to bring scientific laboratories up to modern requirements and, more rarely we may hope, the

same financial impossibility of securing properly trained and full-time professors of medicine, especially now.

In explanation of so many failures before the State boards of medical licensure, certain educators declare that the method of these examinations is at least disputable, when it assigns as the subject matter the full four years of instruction. The National Board of Medical Examiners, on the other hand, holds its examinations annually in different parts of the same field. However, the difference in the general percentage of failures on the part of the approved schools is negligible, 2.4 per cent before State boards, 2.2 per cent before the National Board of Medical Examiners. This is not a significant difference.

And yet we see that graduates from foreign medical schools, including all except Canadian, have a similarly disastrous number of failures. During 1942 there were 1,630 graduates from these foreign medical schools who took our State Board examinations for licenses. 740 failed—an average of 45.4 per cent. Canada, to illustrate the picture more completely, had eight medical schools similarly represented, with the following results: three had no failures; two had 60 per cent failures each; three others had 37.5 per cent, 20 per cent and 16 per cent failures respectively. And, as a kind of post-climax, we find that extinct medical schools in the USA had only six failures out of 106 taking the same examinations—a low percentage of 5.4.

In so far as the unapproved medical schools themselves have been responsible, in part at least, for the sad number of failures noted above, we can be sure that the patriotism of their faculties will somehow supply the deficiencies due to personal causes. Examinations of pedagogical consciences should be merciless. Fortunately, too, the Government will prod the same consciences, as practically all medical schools in the country are now under the approval of the Army and Navy. Financial assistance is thus assured. At the same time, the Faculties should consider the postwar status of these medical schools, even to their voluntary closing.

I referred above to the creditably low percentage of failures by graduates of extinct medical schools, which probably closed their academic doors for financial reasons. In the long run, then, does not the final responsibility for failures from the unapproved schools rest with those most concerned, the students themselves?

That, however, is all past history. They and we are living in the perilous times of our greatest crisis, during an unrelenting war that takes deepest tribute of every resource, not the least of which is our supply of doctors. Can we help rehabilitate our failures before the State Boards?

A sensible suggestion—and probably the only practical one—is to allow these failures to return to a medical school, their own or other centers of study, for a period of six months. The matter for the examination would be assigned by our military divisions of medicine—for example, the office of the Surgeon-General—and the test be given by the same personnel. If successful, the candidates would be assigned to military posts. The licensing

by State Boards could be left to times of peace. This process is urged especially for the graduates of our unapproved medical schools. Most likely they are all American-born citizens, and hence the product of our own educational systems. About the latter we are learning much, as the Army and Navy units of our collegiate institutions purge away holidays and vacations that were superfluous, inter-collegiate sports not compatible with serious study, excessive social entertainments, etc.

Another and much larger group of failures is that of graduates from foreign medical schools. The records of the State Boards show that, during 1942, there were 1,630 of these graduates who took our various examinations, and that 740, or 45.4 per cent, failed. This is more than three times the number from our own unapproved medical schools. The two together constitute a group of nearly 1,000 potential doctors! Can these 740 from foreign schools be assigned similarly to our already heavily burdened medical schools for refresher courses? The first problem with such foreign students would be that of language. In academic charity to the well known names of several European universities, we may presume that this has been the deficiency in the majority of cases, rather than that of medical ignorance. Accordingly, the need for learning English should be less discouraging and more easily remedied than would be the matter of professional deficiency. In either case, the foundered human ship is well worth the raising, if it be at all possible.

Incidentally, the above group illustrates one of the tragic elements of war with its conscription of all manpower. Today, when one of these graduates from a foreign medical school passes a State Board of medical licensure, he often steps into the practice of an American-born doctor who has been called to the front, since the foreign doctor is frequently ineligible for such immediate service, despite all good will. Possibilities of such postwar problems cannot stand in the way of an all-out enlarging of our medical facilities. Our first concern is to rejuvenate as many medical failures before the State Boards as is consistent with the essential demands of the medical military service. Meanwhile the American Medical Association will continue its plans for the readjustment of our doctors when they return from their present irreplaceable military service.

In a possibly abrupt conclusion, a word to Catholic boys in upper high school: Granting you the ability and inclination, you have an exceptional opportunity to be a doctor within five years, while your Government cares for your tuition and gives you \$50 a month in pay. In the past, straitened finances have kept many of our promising Catholic youths from medical and dental schools. The conviction is abroad that we lack our full proportion of Catholics in these professions—for instance, a thirty-per-cent representation in them? In the armed services we are thirty per cent of the total, according to the latest Catholic Directory. Your country and your Church tell you that you are needed in such professional schools, more than in any other branch of military service.

CAN THE COAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT AN ANNUAL WAGE?

H. C. MCGINNIS

ANY discussion of a minimum annual wage for soft-coal miners is packed with dynamite. The basic factors entering into the problem are not at all promising for any easy solution. To set up a schedule which will be fair to both operators and miners will probably require some production- and marketing-controls not now known to the coal business. Since the correct solution to this matter, if ever attempted, will no doubt be grown into by the trial-and-error method, the suggestions here given are not intended to be a detailed or final answer. The final solution must be the product of cooperation by operators, workers and Government.

At first glance, any attempts at a minimum annual wage in a business as seasonal and as subject to marketing hazards as the coal business, seem destined to fail. In normal times this marketing problem constantly grows heavier. The maritime business, which formerly used huge quantities of coal, has now largely converted to liquid fuels. While railroads are still heavy users, their gradual electrification means a dropping market to coal producers. Many industries which formerly used steam-power have turned to other sources of energy. Hundreds of thousands of homes and office buildings, which used coal for heating, have changed to fuel oils. While science is constantly discovering new uses for coal and its derivatives, these new fields do not compensate for the loss of the above markets. Knowing this, the operator does not easily see how he can guarantee to pay twelve months' wages, with mines idle for long periods.

Let us assume, momentarily, that an annual minimum wage is an established fact. The first apparent result would be the closing down of many small mines. While such mines usually do not produce any great tonnage individually, their combined production is a sizable part of the total coal output. Some of these mines produce an excellent grade of coal, but many turn out dirty and otherwise inferior products. Quite a few of these operations are "retreat" operations. Perhaps the original operator has consumed his coal acreage and moved on. Then a smaller operator may take over and, working back toward the mine's mouth, take out the ribs and stumps which the original operator left in as safety measures.

While many such mines cannot afford the best or safest working conditions, they are often havens of refuge for older miners. Some of these miners are capable of full production, but have been shoved

off the large operators' rolls by younger men, or else cannot pass the large companies' stiff physical requirements. In other cases, they may produce only a fraction of their former production, yet toil on in small mines or country banks to keep soul and body together. Such mines often have a humanitarian value which far exceeds their commercial importance. Should such mines close down, through inability to meet an annual wage, the necessity of some form of Government resettlement program seems indicated.

Government interest in unemployed miners may be desirable in any event. In normal times, the number of available miners always exceeds the demand. Part of this is due to the dropping coal market, while part is caused by the increasing mechanization of mines. A mine's mechanization may cause a decrease of seventy to eighty per cent in workers. Should a minimum annual wage be established, mechanization would probably be greatly speeded up. Since coal miners, especially those working in mines which ordinarily operate only two or three days a week, have few if any financial resources of their own, Government interest in re-locating them in other work would solve an ever increasing problem.

In view of the operators' increasing problem of marketing coal in normal times, how can a minimum annual wage be established without wrecking them? Three plans have been suggested, the third being a combination of the other two. The first calls for greatly extended unemployment insurance. Unemployment-insurance premiums are now paid by employers, with three weeks of unemployment necessary before the worker commences to draw benefits. Under this plan, workers would join their employers in paying such premiums, providing the waiting period would be cut down. Some suggest that benefits start on the first day of the miner's unemployment through no fault of his own. This would cause a tremendous increase in premiums, and just what they would be, for various periods, must be left to insurance actuaries.

The writer, wishing to ascertain the reactions of individual miners to this plan, has discussed it with many of them. While the reactions of comparatively few are not conclusive, their similarity in this instance seems to indicate a general unanimity of opinion. The majority expressed a willingness to pay fairly high insurance premiums during their working months, provided their contribu-

tions were matched by their employers and then again matched by the Government. One miner rather aptly called the idea a highly desirable plan for compulsory savings. He would be willing, he said, to lay aside, during his eight or nine months of employment each year, a reasonable amount to help take care of himself during idle periods. It was generally conceded that, during idle periods, seventy-five per cent of the average monthly earnings while working would be sufficient, for an idle miner is at less expense. The food-costs alone for a working miner are no mean part of his income, while very often his transportation is also a considerable expense. Of those talked with, the majority felt certain that an income of \$1,800 would be satisfactory. An average monthly wage of \$150 for men who engage in such a hazardous occupation does not seem to be an excessive amount.

It has also been suggested that a considerable portion of such unemployment-insurance premiums be passed on to the consumer. This idea seems to contain some merit and justice. Since the consuming public wants its coal when it wants it, and considers it a seasonal necessity, yet cannot furnish an all-year-round demand, it appears fair enough that it should assume part of the expense of furnishing the miner an all-year-round living.

The second plan is much more complicated. It calls for the establishment of a Coal Control Commission which would regulate coal production and open up new marketing possibilities. Its first advantage would be the elimination of that cut-throat competition which makes business so tough, especially for small operators. Secondly, its establishment of an orderly production of coal would cut down the number of idle periods. Then, by opening up new markets, it could conceivably keep mines going on an all-year-round basis. Since these new marketing ventures would require Government assistance, the commission should be made up of members representing both the Government and the producers. Should the Government representatives be theorizing professors or lame-duck politicians, chaos would probably result. There are plenty of men available to the Government who know the coal business.

Several factors now prevent a wider national consumption of coal. High transportation costs are among the foremost. Large portions of our country use fuel oils and wood because of this. While normally the oil reserves may be sufficient for a long time, the nation's wood supply is being rapidly used up. Most of the wood-users would gladly use coal if its price were not excessive. Should such markets be opened up, existing mines could then work on a year-round basis, with the Government granting loans to operators for operating expenses while they build summer stock piles to take care of these additional outlets during the winter season. Since such a commission could act as a sales agency, the production of small producers, who could not ordinarily contact distant sales outlets, could be included in the shipments.

The problem of transportation still exists, however. It has been suggested that the retail prices

of coal could be averaged throughout the country. As the matter now stands, people living close to mines get their coal supply cheaply, while those some distance away pay much higher prices. During the past two years, the writer has purchased many a ton of run-of-mine coal at \$3 per ton, while people living only a few miles away paid two and three times as much for the same product. Coal being used by one person is no more valuable than that used by another, yet under our present coal-pricing system, one gets the breaks while another is heavily penalized. A price-averaging, giving the producer the same price on his local sales as on sales farther away, would make coal available to those living farther from production centers, without materially increasing their costs.

However, we overlook an excellent bet when we persist in passing up the enormous advantages which we could develop out of our inland waterways. Transportation by water is much cheaper than rail transportation and, in the case of coal, speed is not an essential when the demands of a given locality have been properly anticipated. For some reason, our inland water routes have not been given the attention they merit, but with Government officials wondering how they can dig up enough postwar employment to take care of demands, the development of our natural waterway system, plus the installation of canals where necessary, and the establishment of stock-pile locations with loading and unloading equipment—so that coal could be stored during summer months when water transportation is available—would furnish much work of useful and permanent value. Such work would be much more agreeably paid for by taxpayers than leaf-raking projects or the modeling of clay dolls. Part of the normal excess of mine-labor over demands might be reduced by Government employment of unneeded miners on such work. Improvements of this kind must receive Government consideration if its efforts to create postwar employment do not result in a grander-scale boondoggling than ever before witnessed.

The third suggestion to guarantee a minimum annual wage for miners is a combination of the above two. It calls for all the activity required by the second, yet adds an unemployment feature which greatly exceeds the present scope of unemployment insurance. The costs of this additional protection would be jointly borne by employers, workers, Government and perhaps the consumer. While it adds nothing new to the first two plans, it would give the miner his guaranteed wage should uncontrollable conditions prevent his steady employment. While none of these suggestions is perhaps capable of being the final solution, the plans do provide something to chew upon while American social justice is cutting its teeth.

Since it is Government's moral obligation and function to regulate industry for the common good, Government cooperation in developing new outlets for producers, thereby causing year-round operation of mines, should prove highly beneficial unless this Government participation becomes a political football.

MANY VIKINGS ARE STRANDED WITHOUT THE BARK OF PETER

FRANK H. SAMPSON

YEARS ago, books sometimes bore the inscription, "copyright in all languages, including the Scandinavian." Whatever may have been the technical reason for this statement, the impression which it left with the reader was that the Scandinavian lands were backwaters of civilization, their inhabitants a sort of "Land's End Folk," like the Lapps of their own Far North—an unfair picture of a progressive and cultured people.

But do not American Catholics often have this attitude towards the Scandinavians when it is a question of the spread of the Faith? We are interested—deservedly so—in missions in "Darkest Africa" or "on India's coral strand," but we give scarcely a thought to winning back to the Fold the countrymen of St. Birgitta and St. Olaf. We might perhaps excuse our indifference towards Scandinavia itself by saying that the spiritual welfare of these lands should be looked after by the millions of European Catholics. But what of the millions of Scandinavians in our own United States? While we bend our efforts to win our colored brethren and our red-skinned "First Americans," let us not forget the Nordics in our midst.

The harvest of souls to which we should lift up our eyes is certainly worthy of cultivation, both from the standpoint of quantity and of quality. I do not have at hand statistics as to the exact number of Americans in whose veins runs the blood of the Vikings, but it must amount to several millions, especially when one considers that the bulk of American Scandinavians are of the second, third, and even fourth generation. To this number should be added several hundreds of thousands of Finns; for while this gallant folk are non-Nordic in speech and to some extent in blood, their religious and secular culture is entirely Scandinavian.

But the harvest is not merely large—it is of superior quality. No nationality has played a greater role proportionately in our American life. Their part in our agriculture and industry is well known. Like the Irish, they take to politics like a duck to water. Minnesota and the Dakotas are largely dominated by them; and in other States they wield an influence out of proportion to their numbers.

But they are not less eminent in our cultural life. Sandburg and Rolvaag and lesser known names adorn the pages of American literature. Educationally they are in the forefront—colleges such as Augustana and Gustavus Adolphus among the Swedes, St. Olaf's among the Norwegians, rank

with the best. The world of music knows them well—the famed St. Olaf Choir is but the best known among several college choral groups. Lindsborg, a small Swedish community in Kansas, draws the leading singers in the land to its annual Festival.

Does the harvest need cultivation? From the distinctly Catholic viewpoint the answer is obvious. In the homelands, out of some 12,000,000 people, less than 50,000 profess the Faith of their Fathers—outside of Denmark, but one in a thousand. Here, despite numerous intermarriages, the proportion can scarcely be much, if at all, higher, especially since many of these marriages are mixed, not merely racially but religiously.

But even apart from the distinctly Catholic viewpoint, the harvest needs labor. It would be inspiring to list among the many virtues characteristic of these peoples a strong religious sentiment; but such would hardly be in accordance with the truth. (Of course we are here speaking of the mass, not of individuals, many of whom are deeply religious. In fact, among the Swedes especially, there is sometimes a strain of fanaticism, which finds its outlet in the Salvation Army and Pentecostal and similar groups.) A number of years ago I heard the late president of Augustana College state in a sermon in a Swedish Lutheran church that the Swedes were the least churchly of any of the American racial groups, except the Czechs, the Italians, and the Protestant Germans. Whatever be the truth as to these other nationalities, it can hardly be doubted that he was substantially accurate as to his own. The chief Swedish church body, the Lutheran Augustana Synod, numbers under 350,000 communicants. Some 50,000 more are grouped in the so-called Mission Friends, and probably about the same number in Swedish churches of American denominations, chiefly Methodist and Baptist.

The percentage of church membership is considerably higher among the Norwegians. One Norwegian writer attributes this to the fact that his people love a good scrap; and until not so long ago the Norwegian Lutherans, unlike their Swedish brethren, were split up into several warring Synods. At present the Norwegian Lutheran Church numbers a little over 500,000 communicants, with some 50,000 more in minor Lutheran groups. On the other hand, the Norwegians have been much less inclined than the Swedes to wander away from their Lutheran moorings into other denominations. As to the other Scandinavian groups, the Danes have

two Synods with some 50,000 communicants; the Icelanders one, with about 2,000; and the Finns three, with about 50,000 communicants.

Summing up, there are a little over 1,000,000 communicants in the various Scandinavian church bodies. Counting in the baptized but unconfirmed children, and making a guess as to the number of Scandinavians in purely American religious bodies, it is doubtful if there are more than a million and a half of them connected, even nominally, with any organized church body. This means that a large proportion, if not a majority, are outside the fold of organized religion. Furthermore, as with Protestants generally, church membership by no means implies church attendance. It must be borne in mind, however, that among Protestants, church membership does not have the same fundamental importance that it does for Catholics. Thus many, probably most, of those outside the ranks of the churches are there more from minor or personal reasons or from sheer spiritual sloth than from any pronounced opposition to religion. Exception must, of course, be made for the Communists, who are quite active among the Finns.

Is the harvest ripe? The answer to this is not so easy, for we are not dealing with facts and figures, but with a state of mind. Nevertheless there are indications that it is at least ripening. For one thing, the Scandinavians are rapidly losing their separate identity in the great American Melting Pot. Their languages are disappearing where they have not already disappeared. Now, as long as they formed a separate group, clannish in their attitude and zealous for their languages, any Catholic missionary activity would have to "start from scratch." Priests would have to learn their vernaculars, and there would be no group of "born Catholics" to form the nucleus of parishes. But among the American people as a whole, Catholics form a large and vigorous group. Particularly the sections where Scandinavians are numerous are dotted with flourishing Catholic churches which are now in a position to attract and minister to them. Cases of intermarriage are numerous; in many cases the Scandinavian partner and, in most cases, the children are brought into the Fold.

Furthermore, as long as they were of alien speech, their prejudices were many, and opportunities for removing them almost non-existent, for Scandinavian books and papers were non-Catholic at best and strongly anti-Catholic at their not infrequent worst. Now that their information comes from American sources, there is bound to be a change for the better. There is plenty of misinformation and prejudice in English-language books and papers, but there is also much therein that is fair and even favorable to the Church.

Even among those who cling to the Scandinavian languages and culture, there should be a change for the better. Catholics in Scandinavia are few, but they are zealous and active. When outstanding men and women—clergymen, statesmen, educators, writers such as Sigrid Undset—become Catholics, conversion to the Faith can hardly seem the utterly unheard of thing it once was.

But if the harvest is great, the laborers, alas, are few! The sole organization which devotes itself to work among them is the St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, named for the great Apostle of the North, who over a thousand years ago began the work of evangelization among them. This small, but flourishing and highly deserving organization was founded in 1910 by a little band of Scandinavian Catholics with the double aim of linking together the few who shared both their race and their Faith—like little islands in the great ocean of their Protestant fellow-countrymen—and of spreading a knowledge of their Faith among their brethren in the flesh. At first there was but the original group in New York, although the influence of the League radiated from Coast to Coast and even beyond. But of more recent years it has branched forth, like the evangelical grain of mustard, as new units have been formed in the Scandinavian centers of the Northwest and elsewhere—almost every year seeing a new link added to the chain. The work of the League has been blessed by the Vicar of Christ himself. And if vocations are a sign of Divine benediction, the League must be blessed of God, for despite the fewness of Scandinavian Catholics, already several priests and religious have gone forth from the League.

But it would be highly untrue and unfair to limit the list of workers to those connected directly or indirectly with the League. Wherever some Scandinavian has returned to the Faith of St. Ansgar, there some priest or layman has wrought. Now that the barriers of language and, to some extent, of prejudice have been removed, there will be much greater opportunity for apostolic work on the part of zealous clergy and laity.

The results of these labors should not and will not be confined to American Scandinavians. Protestant missionary activity in other lands has sometimes been started, or at least helped, by returned immigrants who have adopted some form of Protestantism in their adopted land. Certainly non-Catholics should not have a monopoly on this. Already the St. Ansgar's League has started giving aid to the sorely pressed missions of Scandinavia, deprived by the War and the preceding economic difficulties of their chief sources of support.

Now that American missionary activities are being banned from so many quarters of the globe, may we not express the hope that some small portion of the money and men forcibly deflected from the Far East may find its way to the struggling missions of the Far North? Amid the dark clouds of Communism and Nazism which have hovered over Europe, the Scandinavian lands have shone forth as beacon-lights of democracy and civilization. Why not try to make them likewise light-houses of Catholicism? Our Lord closes His Parable of the Harvest by telling us to pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers. That is something we can all do, whether of Scandinavian descent or not. And, if we back up our prayers with money and men, perhaps, in the Providence of God, in reckoning the Catholic countries of the world, one may say, "including the Scandinavian."

"WHAT IS THE POPE LOOKING AT?"

J. E. COOGAN

WE are all becoming more or less aware that the United States birth rate has fallen so low that we are no longer providing permanent replacement of our numbers. As Prof. S. J. Holmes of the University of California has said: "Were the present rates to continue, all classes would become extinct together." Our country has taken her fateful place among the occidental nations with such birth-rate declines that the competent Sir William Beveridge has declared: "I am inclined to reckon it a turning-point in human history."

One prominent if unwitting "releasing cause" of the triumph of the coffin over the cradle should be better known by Catholics, the chief opponents of her destructive efforts. Margaret Sanger was born in Corning, New York, of Irish parents. Her father was a Socialist and an admirer of the atheist Robert Ingersoll. From her father, Margaret learned to believe in the absurdity of Christianity; hearing her pray as a child, "Give us . . . our daily bread," he demanded, "Is God a baker?" Margaret's mother had been reared a Catholic, but after marriage seems not to have attended church.

The future apostle of the diminished family was herself one of eleven children; poor but not poverty-stricken, all strong and reasonably happy. Nothing in her immediate family would seem to explain her later enthusiasm for relative sterility. One of the eleven died as a child but, through a mischance, that might occur in any family. Margaret was herself later to lose one of her own three children. Nor was the large family a source of strife between her parents; these were devoted to one another to the last, whereas Mrs. Sanger through her work of birth control, it is said, by divorce deprived her children of their father.

Early in her campaign for planned parenthood ("planning not to be parents") and child-spacing (the wide-open spaces), Mrs. Sanger developed a line of thought. Of that line perhaps the most effective element was an interview between an unborn child and his prospective parents, the child asking "such questions as any employe has a right to ask his employer." Of the prospective mother, for example, Junior asked, "How are your nerves? What do you know about babies? What kind of table do you set?" Ultimately unsatisfactory replies are met with a "No, thank you. Next, please." The best we can give a child is of course not too good; but the implication that the child denied to the mother setting a sub-standard table will be born to a more competent mother is worthy only of fairyland. (Here it is interesting to surmise what a preview of his parents would have suggested to the future Abraham Lincoln.)

In her autobiography Mrs. Sanger is at no pains to conceal her contempt for Catholics and their intelligence. Her friends had led her to hope that "the Catholic Church was too clever to oppose a movement that inevitably it would some day have to sanction, and that the tumult and interference was simply the result of local ignorance and bigotry." But these hopes were in vain. Even Pius XI proved to be an obscurantist: "He declared that he was 'looking with paternal eye—as from a watch-tower.' But what was he looking at?" Mrs. Sanger, this ex-nurse, finds that in his Encyclical on Christian Marriage Pius contradicts himself from breath to breath; but in her volume of 500 pages she lacks the space to give a verbatim citation of even one such inconsistency. Of Pius she can only conclude that he is "Jesuitical"—to the intense consolation of the Jesuits.

Mrs. Sanger complains that Catholic arguments against contraception are ever the same; they dogged her around the world and down the years. Even in the All-India Women's Conference they were to show their silly faces, "absolutely as if a phonograph record had been sent around the world. Nothing could be more monotonous. . . . You might challenge them, break them down, correct them, but to no avail." One argument in particular bored her to tears: "Contraception was unnatural, a frustration of nature." "But," she smiled pityingly, "the Pope frustrated nature by shaving or having his hair cut. Whenever we caught a fish or shot a wolf or slaughtered a lamb, whenever we pulled a weed or pruned a fruit-tree, we too frustrated nature. Disease germs were perfectly natural little fellows which had to be frustrated before we could get well." This annihilating rejoinder of the sorely tried ex-nurse is of course proof positive that she has never even begun to understand the argument she is so weary of refuting. She has no least notion that "unnatural" here means contrary to rational nature, contrary to our own nature, itself a Divine work by which God as an intelligent Creator made known His Will concerning the conduct of man. Contraception is unnatural as incest also is unnatural, or sexual perversion.

Monsignor John A. Ryan was one of the Catholic spokesmen of whose comprehension Mrs. Sanger was most disappointed. Not only did he continue to insist upon the essential immorality of contraception, but he warned:

Once men and women reject the principle that contraception is bad in itself and always bad, once they adopt the opinion that it is good in the presence of hard circumstances, they claim the right to decide for themselves when the circumstances are sufficiently hard. This means that any couple will feel justified in practising birth control whenever it seems desirable, for any reason that seems sufficient. And there exists no logical or convincing refutation. That prediction is, with the passing years, being completely verified; and the result for America is a collapsing birth rate while our enemies (especially the Japanese) are multiplying.

"What is the Pope looking at?" Mrs. Sanger scornfully asks. He is looking at "Rachel weeping for her children; but she will not be comforted, for they are not."

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WE are experiencing in our country today the same test that every modern democracy has faced. It is the test of national unity. What forces threaten our unity? Groups are seeking their own particular advantages in terms of what benefits *some of us* instead what benefits *all of us*. They are making a tragic mistake.

It is a mistake they have been taught to make. "Democracy" has been represented in our schools, in the press, over the air and in our political organizations as kowtowing to "the will of the people."

What does this "will of the people" mean, in the minds of too many of the people who keep using this description of our system of government? It means that everybody sets out to get government to give him what he wants merely because he wants it. The phrase says nothing about the *reasons* for wanting it. The whole philosophy from which this *Ersatz* conception of democracy grew up long ago turned its back on human reason as the objective rule of right conduct. For over four centuries "liberty" has masqueraded as arbitrary subjectivism.

People have been taught to think what they please, to say what they please, to do what they please—for the all-powerful "reason" that the unfettered will of man was a law unto itself. It was not merely a privilege; it was an imperative. Kant's political philosophy, which sums up so much that is ruinous in the thought of the last four hundred years, does not begin with the rock-bottom foundation of politics—human nature. It begins with freedom. On this unbalanced pedestal it totters now to the side of license and anarchism, now to the other compensating extreme of the omnipotence of the State. It is far out of line with the Christian philosophy of democracy.

Many pressure-groups in our country at this hour are equally out of line with it. Wildcat strikers in Detroit last week, defying the Smith-Connally bill, are reported to have made this plea: "Congress can't go against the will of the people."

Loyalty is the badge of the bulk of American labor, as of American industry and American agriculture. But high-gear organized groups in all sectors have pitted their power against agreed-upon national policies in order to avoid inconveniences and to gain short-sighted advantages. Food manufacturers have done it; farm blocs have done it; large industries have done it; one large union has done it. They want what they want because they want it. The consequences to the nation as a whole they choose to disregard. They are the heirs of a false tradition of "the will of the people" that is catching up with its abettors.

James A. Farley is the heir of the sounder tradition. Upholding popular government in a recent address, he warned us: "We have no right to sabotage the laws which our Government has enacted." Our legislators must want things for national reasons, looking to the general welfare of all of us. So must "we, the people," if we want our democracy to work.

GENERAL GIRAUD'S VISIT

WHEN General Giraud arrives on his expected visit to the United States, he will occupy the comfortable position of a man who has established a businesslike reputation, by making prompt return for lease-lend supplies.

Will he enjoy the equal comfort of having settled his differences with General de Gaulle? Or will his visit help to accentuate them?

The point at issue between the two Generals is plain enough: the question whether General Giraud shall retain his present supreme command of the armies of North Africa. But, as the world is painfully aware, a further matter is disputed between the two persons and what they stand for. The practical, concrete issue cannot be settled unless a choice is made as to which idea, under existing circumstances, is to be awarded the final value: the idea of inspiring national leadership, represented by de Gaulle, or that of effective and sacrificial cooperation with the Allied effort which Giraud signifies.

That de Gaulle has become a living symbol of France's liberation, and of her national unity, seems incontestable. That General de Gaulle is conscious of being that living V-sign, and that he is not averse to dramatizing it on occasion, appears also to be beyond dispute. For his part, he stands in the advantageous place of having, at a critical moment, made a brilliant, definite and irrefutable decision.

Enthusiasm for de Gaulle as a symbol of liberation does not imply a like enthusiasm for him as a political leader or as a wise judge of men. Confidence that General Giraud is the man of the hour in a military capacity does not compel the belief that he is the person who can give the French the political or emotional leadership this same hour calls for. War, by a paradox, excites at a given moment two opposing currents. Its clarion call for service awakens every instinct of nationalism, while the cause of national defense ruthlessly sacrifices many a cherished national feeling to the cause of co-operation with the country's allies.

None but the men concerned and the people they represent can settle the dispute between the two Generals. But let us not be too lofty in our detachment. As the war's pressure tightens, the same basic dilemma will creep up on each of the United Nations.

ANOTHER CARTEL

ON June 29, in New York City, a Federal grand jury indicted E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company, the National Lead Company and a subsidiary, the Titan Company, Inc., as well as four individuals, for alleged violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. According to Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney-General in charge of the Justice Department's anti-trust division, National Lead and Du Pont entered into an agreement with Germany's I. G. Farbenindustrie, Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Italy's Montecatini and Japan's Kokusan Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, whereby the world was divided into non-competitive, assigned markets for titanium compounds. As in the notorious Standard Oil-I. G. Farben cartel, the participants reputedly supported their monopoly here by patent agreements. National Lead is said also to have exchanged patents with the German firm to prevent the seizure of such patents as the property of enemy aliens in the event of war between Germany and America.

In a statement to the press, F. W. Rockwell, President of National Lead, defended the agreements, explaining that they were regarded as proper and legal at the time they were consummated and had promoted the progress of the industry.

Such are the facts in the case up till now. Regardless of the outcome of the trial, the cartel in titanium compounds raises again the whole question of the relation of national and international monopolies to a system of private enterprise. At the present time, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups are pursuing a campaign designed to safeguard "the free-enterprise system" in the postwar world. Toward this end, they want to see the activities of Government and organized labor sharply restricted. Are they equally opposed, we wonder, to those monopolistic practices of big business which, in many respects, are more inimical to a real system of private property than all the alleged "Socialism" of the New Deal? Until the N.A.M. and the U.S.C. of C. make their position clear on this point, they ought not be surprised if a large part of the general public continues to be lukewarm toward their efforts in favor of a "free-enterprise" system.

WE GAG AT THE DIGEST

STRANGE bedfellows jostle one another in the pages of our digest magazines. Contradictory philosophies, morals and immorality rub cheek against jowl in their handy little pages, and the average American running reader gulps them all down with equal avidity and the conviction that he is whetting his intellect and deepening his culture.

The July issue of the *Reader's Digest* parades before us a truly classic example of this rootless syncretism. Two articles, ten pages apart, are totally diverse in morals, in tone, in patriotism. If you praise one, you must damn the other; millions of the *Reader's* readers will take them both without a blink.

The first, "A Birth-Control Pioneer Among Migrants," condensed from a *Survey Graphic* article by Grace Naismith, is one of the most dangerous things we have yet seen. Mildred Delp, the subject of the sketch, is painted as a true heroine, comparable, no doubt, to Florence Nightingale. She is soft-spoken, shy, and only her utter conviction of the humanity of her work can bring her to speak about these topics to the poor Okies. She speaks to them, "not for empty cradles," but simply for scientific planning and spacing. This, of course, is seen to by the distribution of contraceptives.

"Not much over five feet tall" (a poignant point) . . . "only a flaming courage" and a holy indignation at the wretched living conditions of the migrants have driven her on to showing thousands how not to bring children into those poverty-blighted homes.

Turn over the ten pages now, and read about a "Connecticut Yankee at Heaven's Gate." Condensed by James Keller and Meyer Berger from *Men of Maryknoll*, it tells of the work of Father Joseph Sweeney among the lepers of South China. He found these unfortunates, whom the Chinese call the "numb ones," rotting away in filth and vermin. He built them sanitary homes, planted gardens, revived their interest in themselves and in life, began medical treatments to arrest the disease. He has fed them and protected them all during the war. His village is called, appropriately enough, "The Gate of Heaven."

Now, you cannot have both Mildred Delp and Father Sweeney. If you praise the philosophy of the one, you damn that of the other. If Mildred Delp is right, Father Sweeney is a fool; if he is right, she is a criminal. Who is doing the greater work?

The birth-controller finds squalor and filth, and immediately, as all of his kind do, takes the stick by the wrong end. "Children are being born in those frightful conditions? Ah-hah, we can solve that: let children not be born." Whereas the obvious step, it would seem, is to clean up the shanties, pay living wages—in other words, to solve what is primarily an economic problem by economic, not by immoral means.

Father Sweeney finds comparable conditions. If he worked under the same perverse philosophy, he

would not be slaving and sweating to build and clean and cure. He would just as logically say to himself: "Lepers are living in filth—ah-hah, I can solve that: let's get rid of the lepers." And his greatest claim to fame would be that he traversed China, persuading the lepers to submit to euthanasia.

The editors of the *Reader's Digest* will claim, we suspect, that the publication of these two utterly opposed articles in the same issue is but a proof of their broadness of mind; they pretend to no editorial policy, save that of printing interesting sidelights; all sides, all parties, all philosophies can find a place in their pages. But what of the readers? Month after month of this reading will water down their already chaotic mental vagueness to the point where they are convinced that there are no sides, no philosophies. They take both Father Sweeney and Miss Delp; both are heroes, because they are toiling for what they think right; as for the fundamental question, who is right, or is there any right—does it really matter?

That is the subtle danger of digest magazines and all similar processes of sugar-coating thought and culture; all is reduced in them to the dead-level, principleless, complaisant stratum of false liberalism, of having an "open mind." There is no virtue in having one; a great thinker once remarked that the point of having an open mind, as of having an open mouth, is to close it on something. It is better to close both mouth and mind on food than on poison. The digests give you both, and it takes a careful reader to discriminate.

Moreover, this technique of the *Reader's Digest* seems to us to be a sample of current secular magazine strategy. *Life* will give one week a not-too-veiled slur on the Church in French Canada; not long after comes a magnificent series of stills from the filming of the *Song of Bernadette*. The magazine anti-Catholic? Oh, but no! See how often we feature Catholic stuff! The *Reader's Digest* pro-birth-control? Surely not—see our articles on the other side.

And so, the unwary reader is sucked in—as into a whirlpool. Round and round he goes, getting dizzier and dizzier as he tries to be modern and "see both sides of the argument." In matters that touch on Faith and morals, as many of these magazine articles do, there is only one side—"he who is not with me is against me."

We can never confuse the distinction between good and bad as against right and wrong. Miss Delp may be, and we pray so, a good woman, but she is wrong; Father Sweeney could conceivably be bad, but he is right. The *Reader's Digest* and others try the impossible job of being neither—neither good or bad, nor right or wrong—just indifferent, just liberal, just "open."

Something was said once about indifference. It was strong language. The penalty for indifference is to be vomited out of God's mouth. We feel that not a few of the secular magazines, for all their attractiveness, for all their appeal, perhaps for just that reason, need the same fate from Catholic lives and culture.

WHY THE CHURCH IS SECURE

WHEN the benevolent non-Catholic wishes to pay a tribute to the Catholic Church, he is apt to sound what seems to him to be a very obvious note.

"The Catholic Church," you have doubtless heard at convention banquets and other such celebrations, "is the most marvelous organization in the world. It is so ably put together that nothing can shake it. Political figures come and go; kingdoms totter and regimes fall, but the Catholic Church is forever secure. As Macaulay said. . . ."

This is a good oratorical lead, and contains just enough truth to discourage any attempt to express dissent. If we look at the Catholic Church as the average non-Catholic sees it in this country, it is a wonderful organization. Nearly 23,000,000 in its United States membership, it impresses by sheer size. The vast educational, charitable and social organizations of the Church do their work with a minimum of expense and a maximum of efficiency.

Such admiration is harmless enough, as long as it does not lead to one fatal error, which is the idea that the Church's *security* rests upon its mighty organization. For the modern mind, this is not an easy notion to change. We put great trust in organization as a guarantee of security. This is natural enough in an age when the technique of organization was never so developed as it is today.

Individual Catholics may allow themselves to be influenced by the prevailing notion, but the Church itself does not rest its security upon its size or structure. Its absolute confidence rests upon an agreement between God and man, which agreement is called a covenant or testament. All that we see, in the shape of a world-wide organization with its myriad activities, is but an outward expression of that agreement upon which is based the whole plan of our salvation.

When the priest at Mass takes the wine-filled chalice into his hands, and says over it the Saviour's words: "For this is the chalice of My Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant . . . which shall be shed for you and for many unto the remission of sins," the priest is stating the proposition which is the corner-stone of the Church's security.

God has made a *new agreement*, a new covenant with man, pledging Himself to give us even now the beginning of eternal life in the world to come.

This new covenant is sealed with the Blood of the Redeemer, whose death and sacrifice made it possible. And the agreement is made for the whole of mankind; all men will benefit by it who will comply with certain simple conditions.

This is why Peter's boat (Saint Luke, v, 3) will never sink; since it floats upon the unchanging promise of God. This is why its net ever returns filled with "fish," with the souls of all those who are ready and willing to comply with the simple conditions of that new and eternal covenant. There is no surer way to bring our country to the knowledge of the Faith of Christ than to impress upon our own minds the certainty and security of the promises which Christ has pledged with His own Blood.

LITERATURE AND ARTS

POETS' ROUND TABLE: II

• ARTHUR MacGILLIVRAY

YOUNG POET: In our last meeting, I asked you, the ladies and gentlemen of the critical profession, to tell me just what you like to find in a poem. We discussed the poem in general, requirements in a poet, the force of words, obscurity, the imitation of other poets and the necessity of roots in poetry. Those who contributed to the discussion were most helpful, and I should like some others of you who have not as yet contributed your piece to join the round table. To start things off, who would like to say a word or two about the question of technique in poetry?

Elizabeth Drew: I might offer this little thought that has often struck me as necessary to remember when writing a poem. Poems should not be what I might call too "worked." The language, though it is polished, chiseled and carved painstakingly, together with the images, though they are fitted dexterously into their frame of meter, should not smother the somewhat slender theme on which the poet is writing.

Amy Bonner: Certainly it is true that scrupulous craftsmen writing poems that have the ribs of technique underneath give a great deal of pleasure.

E. S. Forgotson: I heartily approve of what might be called technical vigor.

Louis Forster, Jr.: I know that it is not the fashion to say this, but sincerely I believe that a lyricist may, even in a streamlined age, be granted the right to prefer a simple, traditional technique.

Ruth Lechlitner: But don't you think that expression bound by conventional and rhetorical poetic mannerisms, in other words, the sentimental approach, is out of date?

Winfield Townley Scott: And, too, isn't there a danger of repeating a pattern that brings neither thought nor deeper feeling to the poem?

Y. P.: Yes, I think we would agree with you there, Mr. Scott.

Winfield Townley Scott: Miss Bonner and Mr. Forgotson mentioned the importance of technique in poetry, and there I have no argument. But haven't you noticed that oftentimes a poem fails to come alive because it depends too much on craftsmanship?

S. I. Hayakawa: Exactly, Mr. Scott. A poet who has mastered his devices too well often falls into the fatal trap of being able to continue writing extremely plausible verses after his subject-matter has been used up—sometimes even when he hasn't got a subject at all.

T. O'Connor Sloane, III: I have found that precise expression and disciplined form sometimes out-measure inspiration.

Edward Weismiller: Haven't you also found, when reading a poem, that you have been distracted by technique? It robs me of the unqualified pleasure that I expect to find in good poetry.

Ruth Lechlitner: Yes, all of that is true. An easy command of form may prove dangerous to a poet; it may substitute for a lack of definite, directive meaning.

Clifford J. Laube: I should put it this way: clear thinking and uncompromising craft are an unbeatable combination. The one supports the other.

T. O'Connor Sloane, III: We of the Catholic Poetry Society group believe that *methodical* experiment in expression does not usually make for orotund and overflowing poetic fervor.

Clifford J. Laube: You may include me there, too. I can't stand the hacks and eccentrics of poetic experimentalism who are forever prating about new accents and new verse-forms as vital to any adequate expression of the American idiom, yet who never seem able themselves to achieve any mastery of either form or accent.

Horace Gregory: I, for one, definitely approve of the formal and traditional manner where the poet can succeed in conveying emotions with dignity.

Clifford J. Laube: That brings us back to Mr. Forster's contention. I certainly agree that we should stand by the standards that have resisted erosion.

Y. P.: What would you say about the use of statement in poetry?

Francis X. Connolly: I think that we shall have to make a distinction. It is true that we cannot be satisfied with mere stately announcements. The difference between statement and poetry rests in intensity of realization.

Theodore Roethke: I quite approve of the straightforward declarative statement for power.

Marion Strobel: But don't you think that there is a danger? Personally, I believe that the use of statement is a precarious business. Few poets know exactly how spare and dry a statement must be before the sparks will fly forth.

Babette Deutsch: But how is one to attain force and pointedness, or power, as Mr. Roethke has put it?

Leonard Feeney, S. J.: I think we all agree that force is a fine attribute of poetry. Several years ago I recall having read a young poet who literally took my breath away. How the effect is produced is difficult to answer, but somehow or other the forceful poet plants in each poem that little explosion or surprise that gives it dramatic as well as lyrical significance.

Eda Lou Walton: That is it, the dramatic signifi-

cance. I think that one gets force into his poem if he relies less on the beautiful and sensuous, and more on a definite dramatic building of poetry.

Elizabeth Drew: Forceful poetry, I should say, sustains a note of wonder and delight in the common things of earth and the common experience of human kind.

S. I. Hayakawa: And the poet imports that magic to common things by sheer fidelity of observation.

Eda Lou Walton: I'm glad that you brought that up, Mr. Hayakawa, because I wanted to tell our young poet here that he shouldn't depend upon reading for his subject-matter. I say, look at the real scene about you, and your technique and language will help you to fuse that scene with the lovely and dignified old.

Harvey Breit: Each poem must be an experience, each object must be perceived, if not as though for the first time, then with a certain modification, because each time there is a different context. There is no retirement into a reservoir of perception.

Louis Forster, Jr.: The poet should grasp the characteristic qualities of objects and, with exactness of epithet, make his lines come alive. There should be no (what shall I say?) compulsion, no baroque embellishment.

John Frederick Nims: In other words, you and I want a poet to cut metal rather than to embroider!

Roberta Teale Swartz: Over-supporting a poem with metaphor would be the same idea.

Y. P.: I like all of your ideas very much. Now, what in your opinion are the qualifications for a lyric poet?

Louise Bogan: Well, I believe with a French critic that to be a lyric poet is not to rock oneself and the public to sleep with delusions, but on the contrary to distinguish reality with a clear and piercing look.

J. G. E. Hopkins: To the prospective lyric poet, I should say that the art of making posies for rings is a small, pleasant art, but it is not the art of writing poetry. I look for adult feeling and self-mastery which is essential to the poet as teacher. Beware of the small, slim thoughts and feelings that are at bottom trivial, and redeemed only, for the casual reader, by a fine-drawn preciousness of phrase that does not survive first reading.

Peter Monroe Jack: I like a lyric poet to write in a natural idiom, fresh and gay and assured of itself, delighting in the variety of rhyme and rhythm, creating his own special world of imaginative reality.

Theodore Roethke: I suppose that you have heard all these things before, but I'll mention them again. I approve of the strictest limitations in a short poem—inversion as a device to be handled with extreme caution; adjectives to be shunned; the homely and the bald preferred to the decorative; and roughness for power.

Y. P.: That is what I suppose is writing in the contemporary manner, and it sounds good to me.

Ruth Lechlütner: Don't forget the past, though. Better unite the two, say, a harmonious combination of a metaphysical image having a seventeenth-

century aura with a jazz-note hot from the modern ether.

Kerker Quinn: Or, if you want another combination, I should say that I like a fusion of mental and emotional response. The finest lyric poetry is that in which thought and feeling are joined in the creation, or at least are indistinguishable in the completed work. Or, to stress the idea of combination again, I like a poet who is susceptible equally to tradition and experiment and who employs neither for its own sake.

John Frederick Nims: What Mr. Quinn says about thought and feeling is quite true. Poems should be solid, and by that I mean based on a thought and controlled by intellect and not vagary. But emotion should be present as well. Emotion should flow within the poem and not merely trowel around it. It should be blood to the bone of thought.

Stanley J. Kunitz: I don't believe that any one here has mentioned thus far what to me seems most important. One of the marks of a lyric poet, I think you will agree, is a compulsion to make his own myth of personality and to want to expose it; to show his mask. Without the myth there is no poet, only a series of poems.

Edward Weismiller: You are perfectly right, Mr. Kunitz. There should be a unified sensibility behind a poet's selection of his own poems, for otherwise there will be no voice, no personal music, no way of looking at the world.

Theodore Morrison: You will excuse me for not entering this discussion earlier, but I have been listening most intently and interestedly. I should not want to leave this round-table without contributing some little thing. To the young lyric poet I should say this: do not be irregular or careless, nor write in a highly inflated style of expansive youthful emotion. Your rhetoric will often be merely the verse counterpart of bad prose, a confusion of incongruous figures, an inchoate piling up of clauses to form periods without shape or nicety of design. And above all, don't go in for that self-conscious primitivism, that run-to-seed Wordsworthianism, the travesty of the true poetry of nature, which proclaims the love of the furrows and of rustic people without selection and without discipline.

Y.P.: That is well said, Mr. Morrison, and thank you. Before we close, is there any other advice I need? I promise to be truly humble!

Edward Weismiller: If you plan to be austere, as seems to be the custom these days, I point out the danger of putting a wall of clear ice between yourself and the reader.

Eda Lou Walton: Watch out for the dangerous facility to rhyme and make pretty sounds.

Louise Bogan: If you express different things in the same way over too long a period of time, you are likely to sound after a while as if you were saying the same things in the same way.

Babette Deutsch: Watch out for the helpless elision, the ineffective inversion, the careless cliché. Keep in mind the chiseled line and the musical nuance.

S. I. Hayakawa: And for heaven's sake, don't make your verse muzzy.

GRATUITY

This is a day of sheer gratuity,
When a nosegay of bright crocuses and grass
Is with a smile of sun presented me
By an elbow of brown curbstone as I pass.

And bricks that are harder than the hardest heart
Under my feet are merciful with dew,
And rosy. And a hand has pushed apart
Some doorway, and let paradise blow through.

A sky that's millions of miles away lets fall
A leisure about me where it doesn't belong.
A bird, I don't know the name of, from the wall
Out of the dead vines flings a coin of song.

DANIEL SARGENT

NO OTHER SOUND

The music of Your will is breaking thunder,
The whip of lightning cracked across the sky,
Rain pouring down upon the ancient plunder,
The havoc, the pillage, of winds roaring by.

The music of Your will is summer sunlight,
A golden cloak upon the forest floor;
The quiet fall of water, and the spun flight
Of inland birds that seek a far-off shore.

The music of Your will is distant crying,
A small child lost, wandering in the snow,
The landmarks hidden, and the short day flying,
Night coming down and a long way to go.

Many hear a different music pound.
My Lord, my Lord, there is no other sound!

EILEEN SURLS

A PIGGY BACK

Said Sorrow, "I'll be your small brother,
You give me a long piggy back,
And I'll be the jolliest burden,
That ever a heart had to pack."

So up on my back climbed my brother,
We swayed into highway and sky,
Oh, we were the gayest of hikers,
My brother Sorrow and I.

A bird by the roadside was singing,
Lost love would have wept at the song,
But Sorrow threw stones at the singer,
And begged me to bear him along.

He prodded me into the sunset,
I wept for the love that had gone,
But he dried all my tears with his coat sleeve,
And tickled me into the dawn.

JOSEPH DEVER

CRANWELL SUNSET

At sunset in Lenox, when the great red ball
Like a spun coin balanced on a table edge
Stands for a moment on the hills of Lee,
Sunlight and shadow lie in circle and wedge,
Gloom and glory on lawn and garden and tree,
And set in a nimbus the gables of Cranwell Hall.

Go I there in the lovely Berkshire gloam,
—Blue dusk like water-color upon the air—
Though the red west call as if with many voices
In Lenox at sundown, I shall not find him there.
And yet I know and the heart of me rejoices,
From Cranwell to heaven the sunset road goes home.

There was no waste, no loss in this spendthrift giving;
Though others shall have their tears, I shall not weep.
Who would stay a man with his breast on fire?
Who halt the lover with a tryst to keep?
And length of days is a penny for desire,
And death a canny price for winged living.

FRANCIS SWHENEY

THERE WILL BE MELODY

Should there be no more flowering of spring,
Nor sun like green-gold blossoms on the lawn,
Nor bloom of petaled stars, nor thrush to fling
A coral rhapsody across the dawn;

Should there be no more loveliness of fall,
No flame-edged leaves for gypsy winds to blow,
Nor fluted laughter from an oval wall,
Nor yet the feathered fingers of the snow;

Should there be only bitterness of rain
To blight the colors of the shining earth,
And never fragrance through the night again,
Nor silken summer, nor a whispered mirth—

Even supposing this, my heart holds true:
Earth will know melody while it has you.

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APRILIAN THING

"The pretty birds do sing, Cuckoo,
Jug, Jug, Pu Wee, Tu Witta Woo,"
T. Nashe observes in 1602.

Now this very year they throat
The same old ditty, note for note—
Truer words I never wrote.

And I'll venture they will sing
This very same Aprilian thing
In the lush Millennium Spring.

Even though I sound absurd
I must confess I've never heard
A Revolutionary Bird.

ROBERT CLAIRMONT

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BOOKS

THE BEAR'S STRATEGY

SOVIET RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY 1939-1942. By David J. Dallin. Yale University Press. \$3.75

THIS carefully prepared study of Soviet Russia's foreign policy on the eve and in the wake of her attack by Hitler makes very profitable reading. Those concerned about the prospects of collaboration with Russia after this war will gain from it many glimpses of the complicated springs of Russian foreign politics, and of international relations generally.

Russia's over-all strategy, both military and political, was based on two premises. The first was that she would have to fight a war, with Germany sure to be numbered among the enemies; the second was that Russia would have to prepare for and wage this war alone, as it might turn out to be a war of capitalist countries against the Communist State.

Dr. Dallin's account emphasizes the three chief phases of Soviet policy: the Baltic, the Balkan, and the Far Eastern. America comes in later for a few pages.

The focal point of the virus of war was Hitler's declared design of moving towards the east. England and France, wishing to block this new step to add to the aggressor's might, found themselves diplomatically in an impossible corner. Russia was playing a double game by flirting with Hitler at the same time that she was carrying on negotiations with Britain. Hence, in these negotiations Russia was half-hearted. She demanded the right to move Soviet troops into the Baltic countries, Poland and Rumania. All these countries feared Stalin's Red Army as much as Hitler's, and Stalin's social system more. Any agreement by Britain empowering Russia to operate on her neighbors was bound to throw them into Hitler's arms. Besides, Portugal opposed the alliance, and Spain joined the Anti-Comintern, so that Britain's policy of keeping the Iberian Peninsula friendly would have been endangered by an Anglo-Russian Pact. To make matters worse, it would have antagonized Japan against Britain at a time when Britain could not afford to get into any trouble in the Far East.

The key to this *impasse* was Soviet Russia's self-isolation, a consequence of her Communist ideology and despotic methods. She developed a deep-seated distrust of foreign powers, a distrust which of course became mutual. Her leaders failed to appreciate that in the spring and summer of 1939 public opinion in Britain and France was hardening into a strong determination to take issue with Hitler on the field of battle. This miscalculation and the consequent expedient of dubbing the war a "conflict of rival imperialisms" was, as Harold Laski has said, a "disastrous decision" by Stalin.

The importance of this book is to keep us aware of the problems before us. The fears, bitter memories, jealousies, resentments and conflicting claims that before the war exasperated Russia's relations with the governments and peoples of Finland, Poland, Lithuania, the Balkan states and Japan (to state only the most acute cases), will operate to embarrass and disrupt friendly relations after this war.

So long as no change in the Communist disregard for morality may be looked for, we shall have to plan our postwar security according to arrangements that do not depend too much on fidelity to promises or respect for law. The benefits of collective security will have to be made enticing to Russia, and the disadvantages of arbitrary and ruthless action will have to be made compelling. If Britain, China and the United States pull together, they may be able in this way to minimize the obstacle to international order presented by the Communist ideology. Russians, like all human beings, have a lot to gain from peace.

ROBERT C. HARTNETT

PRESIDENTIAL PREAKNESS

THEY ALSO RAN. By Irving Stone. Doubleday, Doran and Co. \$3.50.

"NO obscurity is so great as that which enchasms a defeated candidate for the Presidency, not even that of the elected Vice-President." Irving Stone has met this challenging fact with a keenly interesting study of nineteen victims of Presidential elections. It is not merely a series of biographical sketches, but a study of the practical function of the democratic elective system. In the defeat of the Also-Rans the author finds a dilemma rising out of this system: the two-party system is necessary to the functioning of democracy, yet from it has come the majority of our national political ills.

The candidates are reviewed individually in the light of the character qualities and previous accomplishments that would or would not make them feel at home in the White House. Each nomination and election is thoroughly explained in the light of relevant contemporary issues, and conjecture is made as to what kind of President each runner-up would have made. Though treating of individual men's struggles for supremacy, the author's synthetic historical sense never loses track of the main theme—that "... for the democracies the royal road to electoral wisdom has been staked out but it has not yet been paved."

The book contains some splendid paragraphs of character evaluation, the result of the author's facile power to distill the spirits of these great men in language that is lingering in its spell. From the same pages that make us grieve our loss of such greats as Greeley, Parker or Cox, we can gather up an exhilarating pride that these men, now in great part forgotten, who understood and lived the American ideal, are woven into the fabric of our heritage.

The author writes with sparkle and arresting liveliness. All in all, he turns in a superior performance, finishing it with an attractive jacket depicting the Presidential race course, on the inside of which is an interesting chart, an historical estimate of the stature of Presidents and their Also-Rans.

JOHN D. BOYD

UNDERSTANDING THE EAST

YEARS OF BLINDNESS. By H. G. Quaritch Wales. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$3

THIS is a survey of the cultural and political (and partially of the economic) situation in Southeastern Asia, covering the rise of new forces and the decline of old Western controls and domination. The "years of blindness" to which the title of the book refers are those when "the old-fashioned materialistic regime" was being weakened by sloth and dry rot, while new forces of a spiritual character were rising and beginning to "shake the majesty and power of imperialism to their foundations."

These weaknesses would be fatal enough in the face of these new forces, but the crisis has been heightened by the aggressive selfishness and the unprincipled activities of "an Asiatic competitor who has for years been scheming the downfall of the colonial powers." In Malaya, in Siam, in Java, in Burma, in India, and even to some extent in China, the experienced author has found disintegrating forces. He believes that "the old conception of empire is doomed" and hopes that there will be devised for these peoples "a system more in harmony with the Four Freedoms for which we are fighting."

This is not a statistical summary. It is not a travelogue, although at times the author tells anecdotes out of his long years in that region, but always to point a general truth with a typical case. The volume does not offer any easy solution. It realizes that there are many and varied forces at work. It pays tribute to the worth of local culture, as it deplores the perversions of that culture

"That worst of all modern superstitions—"

Many are the prophets (false ones, let us hope!) who have told us that the age of nations is approaching its term. Marxian observers have long been saying that the agony of the modern world signifies the birth pains of a *cosmopolitan communist society*. Racialist Nazis view the present war as an historico-biological event ushering in a new age of *continental empires* organized on racial and geographical instead of national and political principles . . .

And even a vast number of those who are defending the world of liberty against the revolutionary tyranny now on the march, do not *really* look forward to a restoration of the international community, but envisage instead either an Anglo-Saxon world domination (which is an ideal *not fundamentally different* from racialist Pan-Germanism), or a Wellsian world state in which *scientists and bureaucratic experts direct the life of the human race* . . .

These last constitute a *powerful party* in our midst. They attribute the failure of the League of Nations to the fact that it was not developed into a mighty cosmopolitan police power with the will and the means of *enforcing a pacific liberalism on all the peoples of the world*. Their ideology dominated a large seminar on American isolation at the 1940 convention of the American Historical Association. The most applauded speaker expressed the opinion that the only road to a peaceful world lay in the creation of a super-state *enforcing a universal order* fashioned by "us" instead of "them."

It did not seem that this gentleman had much more respect for the freedom of *political communities* than Herr Hitler himself has evinced. And when he declared that the world state *must* come because of social and historical *necessity*—since "science" and "economics" *decree* inexorably that it *shall* be—one could recognize the kind of thinking that prevails in the . . . *totalitarian world*, with its belief in vast impersonal forces and processes, and its perpetual justification of itself by appeal to *that worst of all modern superstitions*—the irresistible logic of history.

This kind of thinking, I fear, is *not going to be very helpful* in the reconstruction of the international community and the formation of institutions to maintain peace and justice—if a *second opportunity* for trying this is to be vouchsafed to us . . . It is not enough, apparently, for these people to defend their country and the free international order; they have seemed almost *hesitant to fight without a complete plan* for a new world order in their minds. In Great Britain they pestered Mr. Churchill for his war aims when he could not even know that he and his nation were going to escape destruction. And in America they repeatedly insisted that we take no step without a clear blue-print of the future before us . . .

But it is, of course, *highly important* that men think about the organization of peace, that they review the past experience of our world and seek to discover from history *what kind of world* that really is . . . To help toward that good end is the purpose of this historical essay.

Quoted from the Introduction to THE GREAT REPUBLIC, by Ross J. S. Hoffman, Price \$1.00.

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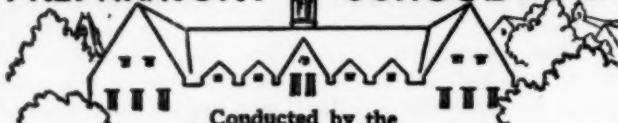
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by skilful Japanese propaganda. It aims to wake the West from its current self-deception in dealing with the East, particularly from its traditional air of superiority. The author holds that despite long years of association, the West has been too preoccupied with ruling, preaching, teaching and keeping peoples in subjugation, so that it arrived at no understanding of the oriental mind. The volume is intended to spur Westerners out of that preoccupation and into that understanding. Unless something does, unless we abandon the attitude of the "old China hand" and the colonial planter and miner, we shall drive the orientals of China, India and Russia into a great and powerful bloc that may never think along with the United Nations and may cause the clash of two large hostile worlds.

Although the author does not so indicate in specific terms, it is apparent that—once the greedy grasp of Japan has been burned to naught in the heat of a consuming conflict—the hope of the world is for real decency, real appreciation of individualities; and real abandonment of selfishness. These are honest qualities. They have been too little in evidence in five hundred years of "development" of the East. They are essential to future peaceful understanding. ELBRIDGE COLBY

DAVID. By Duff Cooper. Harper and Bros. \$3
THIS life story of the Israelite king "who was soldier, statesman, poet and great lover" is a masterpiece of imaginative biography. Duff Cooper has taken the simple Biblical account of David's life and, using these facts as a framework, has clothed them with prose, rich in beauty and imagery.

The shepherd boy who became a king is presented faithfully and historically, with no attempt to make either a Saint or a hypocrite out of an extraordinarily complex character. He is human with both the strength and weaknesses of humanity, and the author does not try to glorify the one or ignore the other. He is at all times alive to the merits of David's character and the romance of his career, and prides himself on his historical accuracy. He himself says that:

... in telling again this story in a modern form, I have allowed imagination to fill up some gaps in the narrative as we possess it, and have elaborated the portraits of individuals, while endeavoring always to be faithful to the indications supplied by the original sources. In no case have I written anything that is in contradiction to the Scriptures, and in no case have I put spoken words into the mouth of any of the characters that are not accurate quotations from the Bible.

The result is a historical novel with a refreshingly new and modern point of view. The story of David is the one familiar to us through years of Bible study, but with an added interpretation of motives, and highlighted by drama and emotion. It is a serious book, but nonetheless readable and entertaining.

ELIZABETH M. JOYCE

SINCE YOU WENT AWAY. By Margaret Buell Wilder. Whittlesey House. \$2

MOST books come to us nowadays still smoking from the fires of battle. This one hails from the comparative peace of a mid-western city that is stripped, like all cities, of its male population, and burgeoning instead with a bewildering horde of soldiers from nearby camps.

The diary of this resourceful family recorded in letters to the absent member might be appropriately subtitled "How to Write to Your Man in Service," for it provides not only a welcome respite from the hate-grim temper of our time, but a practical inspiration to others on the home-front to whom falls the difficult, frequently heart-breaking, task of sharing their daily lives on paper with distant loved ones. On this latter aspect *Since You Went Away* may base its sole claim to significance. Although the escapades of Brig and Jan, the two teenage daughters, the harrumphing colonel, the hypochondriac English bull, aristocratic Miss Horse, and other characters constituting the not-quite-possible-sounding house-

hold are related with amusing charm, the book does not rise at any time above the level of mere diversion.

However, Mrs. Wilder's ability to expand small everyday events into gay-sounding adventures; her carefulness to include those traits that mark a man's family as distinctively his own; her indefatigable lightheartedness in the face of domestic difficulties, and her cheerful plans for the future, furnish an enviable example to those of us who for the duration of the war must keep alive in some soldier's heart a picture of his home as clear, warm and sustaining as it was the day he went away.

ELIZABETH M. ODELL

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS: A Biography. By Fred C. Kelly. Harcourt, Brace and Co. \$3.50

NOW for the first time is told the full and authentic history of man's triumph over the forces of gravity and the resistance of his most benevolent medium of life, the air, a triumph in which he has used successfully a machine heavier than air to outbird the birds. The author is a retired journalist with success in his own right. But he has had the advantage, too, of having his every statement checked for accuracy and of being sanctioned by Orville Wright, still living, with whom Mr. Kelly has been associated since 1916.

The story is complete from birth, through boyhood, youth, and all the hardships, seeming failures, contradictions by elements and by man, to the eventual success. Mr. Kelly's style is admirably suited for the story he has to tell—direct, unembellished, dignified, and yet remarkably human and forthright.

The book is arranged simply in chronological order, except for the more retrospective last chapter in which is given the account of Orville Wright's decision to send the original Wright airplane, the first brought by the courageous brothers to successful flight, to the Science Museum at South Kensington, London, rather than to the United States National Museum.

This part of the book is only a little less amazing than the story, running throughout, of the incredible incredulity on the part of both scientific and general press, by which for years the fact itself of the successful invention of the airplane was not believed. Amazing, too, at this date, is the story of how nearly our own Government missed the opportunity the Wrights strove so unflaggingly to offer the United States Army, enjoyment of the best advantages the successful airplane afforded.

The Wright Brothers is just the kind of biography the average non-technically-trained reader, interested in aviation, will enjoy; it is indeed a book to inspire that interest even if (conceivably) there is today anyone unconcerned about airplanes. The sixteen pages of history-making photographs are well printed.

ROBERT E. HOLLAND

COUSIN WILLIAM. By Della T. Lutes. Little, Brown and Co. \$2

A COUNTRY story of the Thompson tribe of northeastern farmers is well told by Della T. Lutes. It concerns mostly Cousin William, who would rather play the fiddle than work as a farmer. It is a wholesome story with authentic United States farm dialect. The author has a fine knowledge of country life, cooking, habits, etc. The novel has much to do with Christmas time on the farm minus "myth and piety," which means minus Christmas. Christmas "was not a day of great significance." Neither is this story.

THOMAS B. FEENEY

JOHN D. BOYD, teaching at Gonzaga High School, Washington, D. C., follows American history as his special interest.

ELIZABETH M. ODELL, a new member of the reviewing staff, is connected with the Public Relations Department of the N.C.C.S.

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RECORDINGS. When history passes final judgment on the music written in our times, the many recorded compositions of the Finnish composer, Jan Sibelius, will in all probability rank as the greatest. He has been called in turn a nationalist, romanticist, a classicist and a modern. In truth he is all of these. His *Fourth Symphony* is as modern as any of the Stravinsky or Schönberg compositions; while his later symphonies are classic in their restraint and economy. Much of his early work may be classed as romantic-nationalist, and the *First Symphony in E minor, Opus 39* should be placed in this category.

There are three recordings of the *First Symphony*. Eugene Ormandy has conducted it twice for Victor, first with the Minneapolis Symphony (VM-290) and next with the Philadelphia Symphony (VM-881). Columbia Masterworks (Set 151) presents Robert Kajanus and an unidentified orchestra in a modest, unpretentious performance, but one more suitable to this work. His greatest virtue as an interpreter of the works of Sibelius lies in his ability to see the music as a whole. He does not over-stress any one theme or section at the expense of the others, and so he maintains a formal balance and cohesion that is lacking in the Ormandy recordings.

Only in his thirty-fourth year did Sibelius essay the symphonic form. His *First Symphony*, written in the last year of the old century, is one of the greatest of all symphonies. Some musical connoisseurs say that it is surpassed only by Brahms. We do know that it is the last great symphony written in the romantic tradition. The later works of Sibelius depart from any "influence"; the first is the most derivative and least individual of the seven symphonies that Sibelius has given us. Now, we patiently await the Eighth, which is said to be under construction.

The *First Symphony* was given its first hearing in America by the Boston Symphony Orchestra on January 5, 1907. It opens with an introduction in which the clarinet sings a wondering melody of singular appeal—a lonely voice heard over the rumbling of drums. The chief subject of the first movement is suggested by the strings, violins first, with derivations of the theme presented by 'cellos and violas. This is a powerful theme, even if it does remind one of Tchaikovsky in its broad and dramatic line. Once we have observed the principal and subordinate thematic material, there is a short period of development, ending in a climax of intensity, with full orchestra thrusting out savage rhythms in great masses of tone, against a background of *tympani*. The conclusion of the movement is broad and free. After the development, a style peculiar to Sibelius, one again hears the sweeping surge of the great magnificent theme.

In the second movement, the violins and 'cellos sing of a sweet, yet pathetic desire. There is nothing of Tchaikovsky's passionate yearnings; even though the theme is reminiscent of them in the opening movement, it is in another style; one might say it is Grieg in a more dramatic moment. Ormandy over-emphasizes the strings in this unforgettable theme. He unsuccessfully tries to imitate Stokowski, but who can quite ever match his string quality? Ormandy is not able to do it. After an intrusion of a theme in the horns, and a dramatic transition in fifths, the beautiful first theme returns.

The basis of the third movement (*Scherzo*) is a brutal figure given out by three *tympani* in the beginning, also a tinge of the theme from the second movement. The *Finale* is like a series of three mountainous waves rising to terrific heights of power; subsiding to simple, if not placid fluxes of orchestral tone. Here Sibelius sums up his first, and thus far greatest, symphonic creation.

ANNABEL COMFORT

THEATRE

THE ARMY PLAYS. When it was announced that five prize Army plays, written by five Army boys in the service, and directed and acted by other soldiers, were to be produced in New York in June, average theatre-goers experienced pretty much the same reaction. In common with other Americans, they wished the boys well, but they did not really look for a dramatic hit. They thought the work would be clever, but they certainly did not expect a sensational success.

It is a special pleasure to say at once that the boys gave these average playgoers, and the professional critics as well, one of the recent surprises of life. They put on a thoroughly good show, far above the ordinary in its writing, direction and acting. They did it all themselves, and they did it like professionals.

Theatre-goers know the details of the new production. The plays are the result of a contest conducted by John Golden, the producer, whose faith in the ability of the soldiers has been so handsomely vindicated. When five plays had been chosen, the members of the acting cast were drawn from various Army camps in the New York region. A capacity audience, at exorbitant prices, attended the one performance, and the \$100,000 received for tickets was turned over to the Soldiers and Sailors Clubs. Various notables, including Mrs. Roosevelt and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, made the assembly shine.

But, as always, the plays were the real attraction. There were five of them—all written by enlisted men in our various camps and posts. The setting of one play, *First Cousins*, by Corporal Kurt S. Kaszner, is a submarine. Another, *Where E'er We Go*, by Private John B. O'Day, had a barrack-room background. A third, *Button Your Lips*, by Private Irving Neiman, introduced us to the experiences of a first-day rookie, greatly harassed by his officers and his love for Myrna Loy. Incidentally, of course, the audience saw Miss Loy "in person," as the picture announcements put it. The fourth play *Mail Call*, by Air Cadet Ralph Nelson, shows us a runaway soldier, and is laid behind the front lines. The fifth play, *Pack Up Your Troubles*, by Private Alfred Geto, deals, among other interests, with a private soldier who is trying to learn through a hospital telephone call whether his newborn child is a boy or a girl. There is capital humor in some of the plays. There are suspense and drama in others. All are clever and interesting, and the acting is even better than the most enthusiastic spectators predicted. It is announced, correctly I hope, that the plays will be given a "run"—for the benefit of worthy Army causes and the New York public.

EARLY TO BED. Not much space can be given by AMERICA to Richard Kolmar's new musical-comedy production, *Early to Bed*, at the Broadhurst Theatre. That misguided offering must still be feeling a bit groggy after its well-deserved bout with Boston censors.

It is something of a tragedy that Mr. Kolmar, a gifted young man who is putting on his first production in *Early to Bed*, has evidently not learned anything from his experiences in the Hub. He had a show that had many good qualities to commend it, beginning with a clever company and good direction. All he had to do was to trust to his clean hits, emphasize them, add to them, and cut out the dirt. Instead he has apparently gone out of his way, and let his librettist precede or follow him, to emphasize the vulgarities of the script in the present dirty book written by George Marion, Jr. As it stands, *Early to Bed* is a very good offering to keep away from. A careful reading of the criticisms following the opening performance in New York should have encouraged some clear thinking, even by a librettist obviously not given to that exercise of mental powers.

ELIZABETH JORDAN

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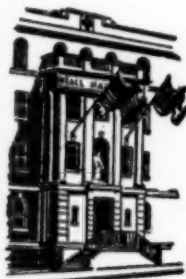
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FILMS

STAGE DOOR CANTEEN. People of the theatre have always been credited with an abundant willingness to lend their talents to a cause. This production stands as a lasting record of their generosity in entertaining the men who are fighting World War II. Stars galore, many whose names are firsts on the stage's roster, do a turn in this variety benefit show. Just as they do nightly in the American Theatre Wing's real canteens, top-flight artists sing and dance and make the boys laugh to brighten up their leisure hours. A simple, unassuming story has been threaded through the specialties and succeeds very nicely in holding things together as a unit. However, though the romance of the soldier from Dakota and the hostess with plans for a career is credible and appealing, the film reaches its high spots with the performances of Katherine Cornell, Yehudi Menuhin, Helen Hayes, Gracie Fields, Edgar Bergen, Ed Wynn, Ethel Merman, to mention just a part of the list of stars who do their bit. Six famous bands give their services, and each renders a special type of music between times. Now that the credit side of the feature has been reported on and acclaimed, the flaws in the production must be mentioned. First of all, the picture is overlong; cutting would have aided immeasurably. Next, some of the dialog is stiff and unnatural, with only the personality of the star helping it to get by. Lastly, and most unfortunately, the offering must be objected to because of one suggestive sequence showing the performance of a strip-teaser. (United Artists)

DIXIE. Here is Bing Crosby without Bob Hope, and that is cinema news of a kind. Though this technicolor musical pretends to tell us about the early days of the minstrel show, neither it nor the audience will take the resemblance too seriously. In a gay, romantic mood, the film tells the history of Dan Emmett, father of black-face fun, and composer of Dixie. Whether the fact that fires photograph effectively in color has something to do with it, or maybe conflagrations did play a part in the man's life, three big blazes mark the three turning points in the actor's career. A not-too-convincing romantic complication involves a crippled girl, played by Marjorie Reynolds, and a big-hearted charmer, played by Dorothy Lamour. Billy de Wolfe, Lynne Overman, Raymond Walburn and Eddie Foy Jr. handle a lot of comedy and do it effectively. Music and song successfully monopolize most of the film's footage. Old favorites are mixed with some new tunes, and Mr. Crosby does his share of singing them. Adults will have a good time at this lively feature. (Paramount)

SWING SHIFT MAISIE. Ann Sothern brings Maisie of the acid tongue and good nature back to the screen as a defense worker. When the tale opens she is employed in a night club, but a test pilot learns that she wants to help in the war and puts her on an assembly line. As always, Maisie gets into a jam, and this time it takes a trip to jail to clear up things. James Craig shares honors with the star. Here is fun and relaxation for mature moviegoers. (MGM)

SUBMARINE ALERT. Spy melodrama has not been neglected this week. These revelations of the methods used by enemy agents on our coast to communicate with off-shore submarines and inform them of tankers' sailing times and routes take care of that. Hair-raising adventures of a radio-expert hero and an F.B.I. heroine become so hectic at times that one expects to see the familiar "to be continued in the next" flashed on the screen. Richard Arlen and Wendy Barry handle their roles satisfactorily. Grown-ups will find action aplenty in this passable film. (Paramount) MARY SHERIDAN

CORRESPONDENCE

READERS TO OUR RESCUE

EDITOR: In a letter published in the June 26 issue, the question was asked by a correspondent, "How many union workers read AMERICA?" and was answered by the same person with these words, "I imagine none, unless Philip Murray and, if he does, it is sent to him by your admiring staff."

I beg to take advantage of this opportunity to correct the imagination of the correspondent. I am a union worker who, with great satisfaction, reads AMERICA. And I know others. My interest in the magazine is given added impetus because of its devotion to promoting justice for all groups and peoples—a fundamental of Christian life, and an outstanding mark of a fearless and unbiased journal.

I am certain that the following words have a familiar ring in the ears of the readers of AMERICA:

It is unfortunate that the manner of acting in certain Catholic circles has done much to shake the faith of the working classes in the religion of Jesus Christ. These groups have refused to understand that Christian Charity demands the recognition of certain rights due to the workingman, which the Church has explicitly acknowledged. What is to be thought of the action of those Catholic employers who in one place succeeded in preventing the reading of Our Encyclical, *Quadragesimo Anno*, in their churches? Or of those Catholic industrialists who, even to this day, have shown themselves hostile to a labor movement that We Ourselves recommended? Is it not deplorable that the right of private property, defended by the Church, should so often have been used to defraud the workingman of his just salary and his social rights? (*Atheistic Communism*—POPE PIUS XI.)

AMERICA is doing a work that many of our Catholic publications have allowed God-hating elements to do for much too long and with too great vigor. May these others follow your wonderful example.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

JAMES P. McMAHON

EDITOR: It might be worthwhile to comment briefly on the letter, in the June 26 issue, from Marie L. Seymour, the "white-collar reader" whose fairness and intelligence you have allegedly insulted; for her state of mind and emotion seem to be, unfortunately, rather general.

Her first question reveals a misconception of the purpose and obligations of the press. "How many union workers read AMERICA?" What difference does that make, unless a Catholic journal should set out to print only what will sell or what will please its readers and advertisers? Some of our papers may feel compelled by financial ties and exigencies to avoid a too-persistent pursuit of the truth. I hope AMERICA will continue on its more courageous course, even if subscribers in Grosse Pointe Park outnumber those in Lackawanna.

Secondly, even if it were true that AMERICA is "constantly showing only one side, and that highly prejudiced, of the labor situation" (an accusation leveled also against Pope Pius XI and, if anything, with more plausibility), economy of effort would seem to justify such concentration, since the large group represented by Marie L. Seymour is already thoroughly acquainted with the other side.

Whether Mr. McGinnis "continues to rave" is a matter of opinion. Admittedly he used facts.

The only direct evidence appears in the next paragraph of the letter, in which Father Masse is derided for his assertion that "as a result of the non-strike pledge, hours lost through strikes or stoppages amount to an

infinitesimal fraction of the total hours worked." This statement of Father Masse was literally true. The record shows that, in the first twelve months after the pledge was made, strikes cost in lost time only 1/2000th of the time available for work. In the following three months, the first quarter of 1943, the fraction was 1/2500th. That fraction is almost small enough to be called infinitesimal. The figures are those of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which misses few, if any, strikes. They refer to all industry; war industry shows about the same percentages. Furthermore, the pledge was not broken by those who made it; none of these strikes was authorized by national officials, who generally did everything in their power to end them. The record was broken by John Lewis, and of course the percentage of time lost will be greater (due to the miners' strikes) in May and June. Even so, barring further trouble, it will not come anywhere near one per cent for the year.

At any rate, Father Masse's statement, covering the longer period, as it did, was quite correct.

There is neither space nor time to discuss the complexities of the coal strike, the "dozens of strikes in Detroit," the Packard employees who refused the request of soldiers and sailors that they return to work, or the advantages of a trip to Detroit. Each of these could be the subject of lengthy study.

In passing, any reader of the daily papers (including the full-page ads), and of the popular magazines, and any radio listener above the Lone Ranger level, should be at least dubious about the assertion that "the employer does not deign to show his side."

The rest of the letter is rather incoherent, proving the need of more information on these matters and continued explanation of Catholic principles in the columns of AMERICA (again assuming that the lady in Grosse Pointe is a more or less typical reader).

Washington, D. C.

(REV.) JOHN M. HAYES

REBUKE

EDITOR: Dealing with the then proposed Smith-Connally bill in your editorial of June 19, 1943, you express your opposition to what you term "a wholly unnecessary and gratuitous rebuke to that large majority of organized labor which is loyally devoting its full energies to war production."

I see no reason why this group should consider itself rebuked. The Decalogue similarly imposes restrictions upon thieves, murderers and adulterers; but no decent person, also bound by the same prohibitions, considers himself rebuked.

Boston, Mass.

H. F. R. WATTS

FACTS ON FRANCE NEEDED

EDITOR: In the June 12 issue of AMERICA Father Ryan, in answer to Father Smothers' letter, states as follows in reference to Dr. Max Lerner's conclusions: "My impression, 'hunch,' or intuition, is that the underground movement is dominated by Communists, near-Communists and anti-clericals."

Has Father Ryan any more basis in fact for this impression than has Dr. Lerner for his assumption that the underground movement in France represents a cross-section of all its political factions?

It would seem that this question is important enough to be decided upon the basis of actual facts, or at least substantial reasoning, rather than upon "hunches" or "intuitions."

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PARADE

SCARCITIES played havoc with values. . . . In a Ver-
mont town where bananas seemed rarer than jewels, a
dealer took the diamonds out of his show-window and
placed one banana on display. . . . In Tacoma, Wash.,
the need of housing was demonstrated when a building
permit was issued for a \$1,000 alteration of a woodshed
into three apartments. . . . OPA activities were reported.
... In an OPA branch in Connecticut, the office cat called
Inflation gave birth to kittens which were named respec-
tively Directive, Questionnaire, Form 1309 and Rollback.
The father of the kittens goes under the appellation of
Black Market. . . . An OPA office in Oregon received the
following letter from a lady: "When I registered for
Ration Book 1, I gave my age but requested that it be
written on the book as merely legal. Please do the same
now if age appears on Book 3. Please do not forget. My
husband thinks I am but four years his senior and would
be very angry to discover the truth." . . . Libraries en-
tered new fields. . . . A restaurant owner in Baltimore
telephoned a public library, spoke as follows: "I have
spilled a box of salt in my day's batch of soup which
carries a lot of good ration points. What can I do?"
Replied the library: "Cut raw potatoes in the soup, boil
for five minutes, remove the potatoes and the soup will
be desalted." Inquired the restaurant owner: "Where
can I get the potatoes?" Responded the library: "Our
facilities are not sufficiently adequate to render the ser-
vice you indicate." . . . Instances of honesty gleamed
forth. . . . In Colorado, a magistrate, after perpetrating
a left-hand turn in traffic, tried himself, fined himself
one dollar, would not suspend the fine. . . . Some months
ago, a Chicago citizen found a \$100 bill, returned it to
the owner. Later, he paid \$150 for a bank draft, received
one for \$250. He sent it back. Still later, he entered a
bank, handed in twenty five-dollar bills, asked for a \$100
bill. The paying teller gave him a \$1,000 bill. The citizen
returned \$900 to the bank. Last week, he saw a half-
dollar on the pavement, walked right past it. . . .

Efforts to raise the general educational level were un-
leashed. . . . Introduced into the Illinois House of Repre-
sentatives was a bill to require all legislators to have at
least an eighth-grade education as a qualification for
holding office. The member introducing the bill said that
over the last ten years he knew two legislators who
could neither read nor write, one of whom had "gotten
himself elected three times." . . . Excessive proficiency
in the ju-jitsu art generated gloom. In Los Angeles, a
fourteen-year-old boy became such a perfectionist in ju-
jitsu that his school principal stopped him from practis-
ing on schoolmates. Baffled, the boy started practising
on himself, got a paralyzing hold on his own neck, went
into a coma. He recovered in a hospital, whereupon his
parents forbade further practising on himself. . . . Ex-
cessive tendencies appeared in other fields also. . . . A
nineteen-year-old Arizona girl was sentenced to prison
for having too many husbands. She had three—one sail-
or, two soldiers. . . . The rubber situation showed im-
provement. . . . A fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico caught
a 192-pound roll of new rubber. . . . Another fisherman,
operating in a Louisiana bayou, caught a brand-new
truck tire and wheel. . . .

Another situation manifested the opposite of improve-
ment. . . . The 1942 report of the Bureau of Social Hy-
giene in New York revealed a thirty-seven per cent in-
crease over 1941 in the number of social-disease cases
among boys and girls between fifteen and twenty years
of age, as compared with an overall rise of 1.5 per cent
in all age brackets. Seems there is something wrong
somewhere in the way children are being raised these
days.

JOHN A. TOOMEY

THE AMERICA BOOK-LOG FOR JUNE

REPORTING THE RETURNS SENT BY THE CATHOLIC BOOKDEALERS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY ON THE TEN CATHOLIC BOOKS HAVING THE BEST SALE DURING THE PAST MONTH.

Tales From the Rectory—Kelley
Family That Overtook Christ—Raymond
The Robe—Douglas
Song of Bernadette—Werfel
With a Merry Heart—Phelan
Larks of Umbria—Schimberg
Mass of Brother Michel—Kent
Rose Unpetaled—Morteveille
These Two Hands—Edwards
Pageant of the Popes—Farrow

Pressing this month's leaders in popularity come *Celestial Homespun*—Burton, with 10 votes; *This War Is the Passion*—Houselander, with 9; *Confessions of Saint Augustine*—Sheed, with 8; *Judgment of the Nations*—Dawson and *The Screwtape Letters*—Lewis, each with 7. This monthly, nation-wide survey gives a cross section of the reading habits of Catholics.

[illegible]

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JESUITS IN HISTORY

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